

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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## Big changes ahead for Christianity in North Korea

By Dan Wooding

PYONGYANG, North Korea — When Kim Il Sung died earlier this year, so did the only god most North Koreans believed in. The messiah of "The Land that Time Forgot" was gone forever, but they did not want to let him go.

Their sorrow was understandable. Kim Il Sung was a god to the people of his "Hermit Kingdom." For 46 years, he was the absolute king of his half of the peninsula. His subjects had been told through a massive propaganda campaign that he was all wise, all knowing, but now he was gone and the people were lost without him.

The personality cult built up around Kim Il Sung and his son, Kim Jung Il, made the ones created for Mao, Stalin, and Hitler seem tame by comparison.

But now, as the transfer of power to Kim Jung Il — the "Dear Leader" — appears to be almost complete, many of the people are aware that a heart-stopping change is about to take place. Their leaders began talks with American representatives in Pyongyang and Berlin on Sept. 10, discussions that could begin the way to normalization of relationships between the two countries who have distrusted each other totally since the Korean war back in the '50s. It was a war that left the two Koreas in ruins and up to 3 million people were dead.

### Why Now?

The United States has never had diplomatic relations with North Korea since its founding as a communist state in 1948, so

North Korea watchers have wondered why the country is now eager to be friends with the United States. We discovered that this was because the country has been devastated by the worst crop failure of its history. The government has filed a \$500 million claim with a group of insurers in Europe and Australia after cold weather, followed by six weeks of drought and then floods, virtually wiped out much of the rice and maize crops.

I was in North Korea with David Cho, a Korean Christian leader who had paved the way for the visits to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for Billy Graham and Jimmy Carter, the latter whose visit could have saved a nuclear conflagration in this the last holdout of the Cold War.

It was interesting that a delegation of Christians would be so warmly welcomed and well treated by a land that, at one time, was anything but friendly to its own believers.

Cho, a 70-year-old former Presbyterian minister who was born in North Korea and met Kim Il Sung on three occasions, said, "North Korea is now coming to a very crucial time in its history. Big changes will come very soon, because of the normalization of

relationship between the United States and North Korea."

Cho said one of those changes would be the opening up of North Korea to Christianity. At present there are only three churches open — all in Pyongyang — and 500 "official" home churches in North

and hospital in the city and Ruth Graham, the wife of Billy Graham, even attended a school there for the children of missionaries."

This news shows how fragile freedom can be for the church.

Cho explained that, in his later years, Kim Il Sung, who was raised in a Christian home, had shown a great interest in Christianity. "When I attended his 82nd birthday celebration in January, Kim Il Sung even asked me to say the 'grace' before we started eating," he said.

Kim Il Sung also spoke with Billy Graham about Christianity and even revealed that he had built a Protestant church in the capital in honor of his born-again mother.

For Michael Little of the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN), it was an encouraging trip. He was able to open discussions with Li Won Taek, general director of Studio S.E.K., the country's premier animation studios, on the possibility that, when normalization with the U.S. is completed, they might do animation based on biblical characters and themes for CBN.

He also met with representatives of North Korean State Television to discuss the possibility of their eventually showing a Korean-language version of the "Superbook" series, CBN News, and other programming. This is

being considered by state TV leaders.

### "There Are No Problems"

It was fascinating to hear one TV executive, who had viewed a Christian TV show that was made in the Philippines and featured a couple who had experienced marriage problems, became divorced, and then were reconciled. "We couldn't show that in our country," he said in all seriousness during a meeting with Little. "We have no divorce or problems in our country. We believe that the family is like a cell."

Prayer should also be our response to the people of North Korea. Billy Graham, who along with his son Ned were Kim Il Sung's guests in North Korea on two occasions and had extended private discussions with him, first in 1992 and then in January of 1994, said: "I encourage people around the world to pray for the people of North Korea, and for their leader, as well as for the people and leadership of South Korea during this time of transition, that lasting peace may come to that troubled peninsula."

A god has died in North Korea — and another appears not to be too well. When gods die, temples start to crumble. Are we witnessing the end of an era in North Korea? Yes, I believe we are and it could be replaced with a Christian revival on a scale of the neighboring south.

Wooding is one of the first U.S.-based journalists to visit North Korea since the funeral of Kim Il Sung on July 11.



Korea, with a further 200,000 believers who meet in secret in homes across the country.

"Many of them are the descendants of pastors and elders who fled the country at the end of the Korean war," he said.

He pointed out that Pyongyang was once the center of Christianity in the Orient. "Between 1907 and 1910, there was a great revival in Korea," he told me. "There were 2,000 churches in the country and 70 in Pyongyang. There was a Christian university

### E. Europe conflicts arise

The new freedom blowing through Eastern Europe doesn't mean the battle for religious liberty has been won, according to leaders who addressed more than 3,200 Baptists from 41 countries at the European Baptist Federation's 1994 congress in Lilliehammer, Norway. Many speakers said religious freedom has steadily improved, but contentious relations continue in countries with state churches where Baptists are usually in the minority. Theo Angelov, president of Bulgarian Baptists and a federation vice-president, said his country's government works so closely with the Bulgarian Orthodox Church that government spies posing as Baptists were sent to infiltrate the federation's previous congress in Budapest, Hungary. Edwin Carvana, pastor of a Baptist church on the island of Malta in the Mediterranean Sea, said, "(Roman) Catholics are trying to stop Baptist growth. When we deal with a devout Catholic in government, it can be like a stick stuck between the spokes of a wheel and we have problems."

### Albanian race is on

More than 2,300 Albanians so far have come to know Christ in an ongoing Southern Baptist-led international effort to bring the gospel to this formerly — and possibly future — "forbidden country." The project is a shared vision of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, Cooperative Services International (CSI) of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, and Campus Crusade for Christ in Albania. The project includes:

- Sixteen CSI workers on two-year assignments, charged with long-term followup and church planting.
- Brotherhood volunteers to coordinate base camps and provide meals.

In this Eastern European country of 3.5 million people, evangelicals are in a race with Muslims to fill the spiritual void left by decades of officially-sanctioned atheism. "I feel like the country will close within three to four years," said one resident worker, citing a possible return to communism or the establishment of an Islamic republic.

### Looking Back...

#### 10 years ago

Care Critters, an eight-member puppet team from Calvary Church, Lamar Association, returns from a Montana mission trip, where they taught two daily Backyard Bible Clubs and performed puppet shows at evening revival services.

#### 20 years ago

Churches across south Mississippi accept the invitation from William Carey College in Hattiesburg to be a part of the school's unique, 14-hour foreign missions emphasis for youths, young adults, and lay leaders.

#### 50 years ago

Immanuel Church, Natchez, becomes the third Baptist church in the city when it begins services with seven charter members and immediately votes to support the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

## Satisfaction was expressed

In a few weeks we will gather for the 159th session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. We do well to pause for a moment and consider the historical significance of our Convention and how it has helped to mold our state. To ignore history is to imperil the future.

Roy Collum, MBCB evangelism director for more than 10 years, retired in 1981. He gave **The Baptist Record** library a book by T.C. Schilling, **Abstract History of the Mississippi Association From 1806 to 1906**. Collum had once pastored at Liberty in southwest Mississippi and was quite familiar with the Mississippi Association.

Schilling's book chronicles the early years of Baptists. Richard Curtis Sr., and a few others settled on Cole's Creek north of Natchez in 1798 and soon had a church there. They called it Salem. Two years later, New Hope Church in Adams County and Bethel Church in Wilkinson County were organized, followed by New Providence (1803) and Ebenezer (1806), both in Amite County.

The process of forming a state convention faded in and out until the present Convention was organized in 1836. The Convention

met at Galilee Church.

"Satisfaction was expressed" that Adoniram Judson had completed the translation of the Bible into the Burman language. Consideration was given to the founding of the Judson Female Institute and the **Southwestern Religious Luminary**, edited by Ashley Vaughn at Washington, Miss., was endorsed.

The group apparently considered three things to be of prime importance: missions, Christian education, and the newspaper.

We haven't varied too much from these priorities in the years that have followed. Check the budget — missions, Christian education, and media support are still vital in Mississippi Baptist work.

For the next 60 years, the Convention had no paid employees, but they did have a president, a recording secretary, and a treasurer. In 1895 the Convention met at Hazlehurst and elected T.J. Bailey as "statistical secretary." (He would also serve as editor of **The Baptist Record**.) A.J. Miller succeeded him the following year and served for seven years. He was followed by S.G. Cooper from 1903-1915; J.B. Lawrence, 1916-1921; and W.T. Tull until

1925. Apparently the job description was changed in 1925, and R.B. Gunter became secretary-treasurer until 1939. D.A. "Scotchie" McCall served for 11 years thereafter; Chester Quarles was chosen and served until 1968. Doug Hudgins served from 1969-74; Earl Kelly then served for the next 16 years. Bill Causey has served since 1989.

Reading the list of pastors, one convention president brings a lot of pride and fond memories. How can we forget Bryan Simmons, Frank Moody Purser of Oxford, George H. Gay of Ripley, A.B. Pierce of Kosciusko, or J. Reese Rogers of Salem, S.R. Woodson of Columbia, Wyatt Hunter of McComb, or Clarence Cutrell of Calhoun City, W.L. Meadows of Quitman? — and the list could go on for pages.

Perhaps I'm not alone in this, but to me, those names spell integrity, faith, and a loyalty to Christ and his church. Today's preachers could also be added. Let this also be said in the future, when they write of those serving today. The state convention has been valued by Mississippi Baptists for over a century and a half. The 1994 Convention will also be important.

**"Deliver the poor and needy..."**

## Observe World Hunger Day, Oct. 9

By C. Ben Mitchell

According to God's Word, one priority of kings and judges is to relieve the poor, needy, and oppressed. The least advantaged and the most vulnerable stand in need of the greatest protection against those who would exploit or neglect them.

Such is still the business of government. Most importantly, however, it is a first-order business of the people of God. The apostle James reminds us that ministry to the oppressed and vulnerable is the essence of true religion (James 1:27).

Christians have at least a three-fold responsibility to the impoverished. First, we are obliged to provide direct, personal ministry to the hungry and poor. Too many churches are feeding themselves. Too many churches are attending only to their own interests. To the degree that churches cease to minister to the poor and needy, they oppress them. Instead, we are called to be Samaritan Christians who reach out to others. And we must do so with a view toward ministering to the whole person.

Food for the stomach and meat for the soul should be served up through feeding ministries, clothes closets, work programs, alternative housing opportunities, urban church planting, etc. We should, in the words of the Baptist Faith and Message, "work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the aged, the helpless, and the sick." Rescuing the poor and needy demands compassionate hearts and spiritual insight.

Second, Christians have a responsibility to call on elected officials to protect the interests of the poor and hungry and break down barriers that keep the church from providing ministry. When the church is free to be the church, ministry becomes a priority. Government must not so restrict the churches that they are unable to focus on "doing the Word." Government must not so restrict or financially burden its citizenry that they are unable to assist in serving the needs of others, too.

Third, Christians must elect national leaders who have both a heart of compassion for the most

vulnerable in our society and who understand the proper role of government in delivering the poor and needy. Even though the United States is not a theocracy like ancient Israel, we have a national responsibility to our citizens, especially those who are being ravaged by poverty and hunger. Elected officials should be sensitive to community, state, national, and global needs. They should work for legislation that will be incentives for honest labor, societal justice, and compassionate care, at the same time, refusing to create an underclass dependent on government assistance. Citizen Christians have a duty to God and to other persons to help elect leaders who will justly protect and defend the interests of the least advantaged of our society.

As your church observes World Hunger Day, pray, minister, and witness with a view toward delivering the poor and needy.

Mitchell is consultant for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

**"Deliver the poor and needy"**

(Psalm 82:4)



Observe World Hunger Day

October 9, 1994

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission  
of the Southern Baptist Convention

## THE FRAGMENTS



## Strange things in the mail

They come from the lower 48 and several foreign countries: warnings, threats, suggestions, buy or sell, pay-me-now or pay-me-later ideas that cross the desk of every editor.

"We've had enough debate, enough speeches, enough talk! Shame! The time has come to act. Pray, vote, plan to win... The export of pet food is skyrocketing and Mississippi is poised to get a good share."

"The Wheaties approach to Christianity" is good enough for "Barry Biceps" and "Betty Beautiful" but does not dare the mention of integrity.... "PS loves PW" drew my attention but it meant "Paul-Silas loves Praise-Worship." One news release tells of a pastor who will use "44 live domestic and exotic animals" to illustrate stories for children.

"It isn't going to happen unless lawyers do it" has to do with the courts, laws, and judges in respect to child abuse... then a letter reminded me of the "rare man who has more business than he can attend to, never has time to attend to anybody else's."

And Norman Vincent Peale defines, "Forgiveness is when you leave your dad's handsaw out in the rain, and he says it was rusty anyway." Then a poor man who believes he is God wrote, "Upon the demise of my Son (I am immortal and cannot die) many mongrels will emerge..."

Laws not yet written: "If there are two events of importance, they will always conflict" says Masland... and perhaps the best law says, "No matter what happens, somebody knew it would."

— GH



SEVENTEENTH  
**BAPTIST WORLD CONGRESS**

AUGUST 1-6, 1995 BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

*Celebrate Christ: The Hope of the World!*

## The Baptist Record

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Editor.....Guy Henderson  
Associate Editor.....William H. Perkins Jr.  
Advertising/News writer.....Teresa Dickens  
Editorial Associate.....Florence Larrimore  
Circulation Manager.....Renee Walley  
Bookkeeper.....Betty Anne Bailey  
Layout/News writer.....Shannon T. Simpson  
Editor Emeritus.....Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Deborah Brunt, Corinth; David Raddin, Yazoo City; Robert Self, Brookhaven; Charles Dunagin, Summit; Horace Kerr, Brandon; Grady Collins, Philadelphia; Teresa Dickens, secretary.  
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# SBC Cooperative Program gifts for 1993-94 set new record

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program (CP) gifts for the fiscal year 1993-94 totaled a record \$142,866,783 surpassing last year by more than \$6 million and the budget requirement by more than \$4 million, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

The SBC fiscal year — which ended Sept. 30 — CP total compares to \$136,539,729 in gifts for fiscal 1992-93, or a 4.6% increase.

The 1993-94 SBC program

allocation budget called for \$138,234,735. The \$142,866,783 represents 103.4% of the budget.

Highest previous year in the CP's history was 1989-90 when \$140,710,282 in gifts was received by the SBC.

"The all-time record high in Cooperative Program receipts is overwhelming evidence that Southern Baptists, the people in the pews of our churches and the pastors in our pulpits, are committed to meeting the challenge of the Great Commission," Chapman said. "It has always been true, and

remains true, that the more Southern Baptists know about the enormous challenge of reaching the world for Christ, the more they want to increase their participation."

The year-end total confirms what SBC officials had hoped for — a reverse of the decline in CP gifts to the SBC following the then-record 1989-90 fiscal year.

"In contrast to those who have said otherwise, this is a demonstration that Southern Baptists continue to support missions through the SBC unified plan of

giving, the Cooperative Program," Chapman said.

And the record total sends a message, according to Jim Henry, president of the SBC and pastor, First Church, Orlando, Fla. The church leads the 38,000 SBC churches in mission gifts through the CP.

"This record giving sends a strong message that the grassroots have a great and growing confidence in our institutions, our leadership, and our Cooperative Program," Henry said. "It behooves all of us to be sure we have a word from God before we tinker with changing what our people feel so good about and what God is enormously blessing."

"First we give praise to our Lord Jesus Christ for his faithful provision through his people," Henry said. "This record year of giving is bound to give a boost of

encouragement to our missionaries, seminaries, and agencies. I believe this represents a growing awareness of our people of the golden window of opportunity that's now open to share Christ around the world.

"Perhaps it is an indicator that many of our pastors, laity, and churches are experiencing God, and out of their walk with him, prioritizing their financial commitments."

Although total designated gifts for the fiscal year appear to be

near the record of 1991-92 of \$127,916,369, the final figures will not be available until after the first of the month.

CP funds for 1993-94 above the budget will be divided equally between Program Advance, all agencies sharing according to the budget percentages, and the 1993-94 Capital Needs Budget as it appears in the 1993 SBC Annual.

## Past 10 Years of SBC Cooperative Program Gifts:

1984-85	\$117,526,691
1985-86	124,232,371
1986-87	130,345,184
1987-88	134,787,542
1988-89	137,332,523
1989-90	140,710,282
1990-91	140,200,394
1991-92	138,234,735
1992-93	136,539,729
1993-94	142,866,783

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## The Baptist Record

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## Theme announced for 1994 state Convention meeting

By Tim Nicholas

"Renew a Right Spirit" will be the theme of the Mississippi Baptist Convention taking place at First Church, Jackson, Nov. 1-2.

Messengers to this annual business meeting of the more than 2,000 Southern Baptist churches in the state will hear inspirational speakers and musicians, elect officers, consider a Cooperative Program budget for 1995, and discuss any resolutions presented.

This year's convention will be shorter than those of recent years. There will be five sessions instead of six. This decision of the Order of Business Committee was made because of slack attendance at the past Wednesday evening sessions, according to Jimmy Porter, committee chairman and pastor of First Church, McComb.

The program begins at 8:45 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 1, with a musical prelude. Sessions conclude on Wednesday afternoon following a message by Denton Lotz, head of the Baptist World Alliance.

Other featured speakers include

Rex Yancey, pastor of First Church, Pascagoula, and president of the convention; Henry Blackaby, co-author of the *Experiencing*

God materials; Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; and Gordon Sansing, pastor of First Church, Vicksburg, delivering the annual sermon.

Blackaby will also deliver the Bible Treasure devotionals in each of the four daytime sessions.

Music will come from the sanctuary choir of First Church, Pascagoula; "Heart Strings," the Mississippi Singing Churchmen; the channel choir of First Church, Vicksburg; and the Blue Mountain College Chorale.

Instrumentalists/accompanists for the convention sessions will be Eva Hart, pianist; and Glenn Crosthwait, organist. Both are on staff at First Church, Jackson.

Each session will include Christian testimonies called "My Fresh Encounter." Speakers will be Rob Jackson of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo; Mike and Christine Goff

of First Church, Brandon; Kelli Kee, Acteen at Woodville Church, Woodville; Eleanor Long of First Church, Florence; and Bill Hudson of Diamondhead Church, Diamondhead.

Election of the president will take place at 10:25 a.m. on Tuesday. President Rex Yancey is eligible for a second one-year term.

The 1995 Cooperative Program budget, proposed by the convention board to be \$22,606,579, will be voted at 9:50 a.m. on Wednesday.

The convention board will meet immediately after the closing session for its organizational meeting, where members of the Executive Committee will be elected.

More Mississippi folks —

## Mississippi pastors' conference feature state pastors, Tom Lester

The Mississippi Baptist Pastors' Conference, held each year at First Church, Jackson, prior to the start of the Mississippi Baptist Convention's annual meeting, will feature Mississippi pastors on the platform all afternoon, according to conference president Randy Turner.

"People have mentioned they want to see more Mississippi people," said Turner, pastor of First Church, Laurel.

Beginning at 1 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 31, the conference will

Registration for messengers and guests to the 1994 Mississippi Baptist Convention will open at noon on Monday, Oct. 31, and continue, with the exception of the evening sessions, through 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 2.

Volunteers from First Church, Jackson, will work in the registration area which will be set up on second floor above the State Street entrance to the church complex. Registration will open on Tuesday and Wednesday at 8 a.m.

Convention-goers are encouraged to park at the fairgrounds due to the limited amount of parking space available adjacent to the church. The fairground parking, behind the super-slide at the Jefferson Street entrance, will be open Monday through Wednesday.

day. Shuttle service will be available to and from the church.

First, Jackson, will provide child care for children ages birth through five years during the Pastors' Conference on Monday and each session of the convention. Preschool departments are located on the street level off State Street.

The preschool area will open 20 minutes prior to each session and close 15 minutes after the session. Children may remain in the preschool area during the Tuesday lunch hour if parents provide a sack lunch.

Parents will be asked to: register, giving the name of the child(ren), parent, and church; pick up security card for each child; label belongings; and provide feeding schedule for infants.

herd of the Hills Church in Van Nuys, Calif.

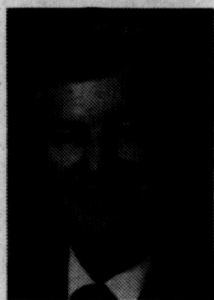
There will also be testimony by Tom Lester, who portrayed "Eb" on the Green Acres television series.

Stephen Kirkpatrick, wildlife photographer from Jackson, will present a multimedia show with his testimony.

Bo Parker will lead music in the afternoon session. The Doctors Four, a quartet from First Church, Laurel, will lead music that evening.



Yancey



Blackaby



Lotz



Sansing



Causey

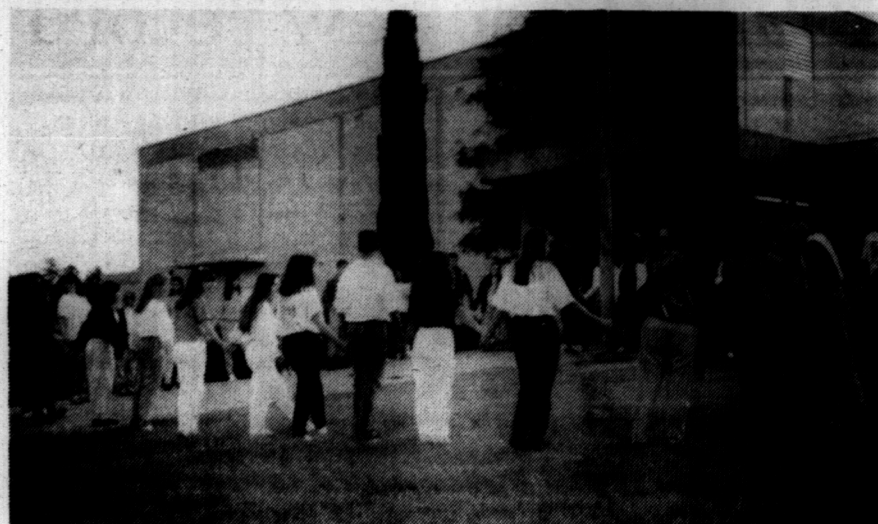


Hart



Crosthwait





## See You at the Pole

Forty-two students, several teachers, and one area youth minister joined hands around Jackson's Wingfield High School flag pole before school on Sept. 21 to observe See You at the Pole. The national student-led and student-initiated effort is intended to dedicate schools and lift leaders and teachers up to the Lord, said Rick Patrick, youth minister at Jackson's Southside Church. He joined about 10 members of his youth group at Wingfield to pray, sing hymns, and hear a reading from 2 Chronicles 7:14. Wingfield was the center of a national controversy last November, when a student led a prayer over the school's intercom. Then-principal Bishop Knox was placed on indefinite administrative leave by Jackson Public Schools' superintendent for allowing the prayer. Knox said he followed the guidelines set by a 1992 ruling by the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals that permits student-initiated prayer at graduation ceremonies. Knox resumed his duties at Wingfield High School at the beginning of the 1994 school year. (Photo by Shannon T. Simpson)

## Student conference emphasizes sharing Christian hope, Jesus

By Teresa Dickens

Over 800 Baptist Student Union members and other college students from across the state participated in the 1994 State College Student Conference Sept. 23-24 at First Church, Clinton.

The conference theme, "Sharing our Hope... Jesus," was developed during the two-day meeting by two pastors, a home missionary, a ventriloquist, and two musicians.

Along with being entertained and challenged by program personalities, the students also adopted a 1995 summer missions budget of \$125,304.32 and approved 95 home and foreign assignments to be filled by Mississippi BSU students next summer.

The state's BSUs have pledged \$107,094.94 toward the 1995 budget goal. The remainder, \$18,209.72, was left in the State Mission Fund from the 1993-94 school year. Students attending the Clinton event contributed \$1,015.86 toward the 1995 missions goal.

Between the two general sessions on Saturday, students attended seminars on mission opportunities, spiritual growth, and personal development.

Each of the three general sessions featured musicians Mack and Shayla Blake of Ruston, La., and ventriloquist Dennis Lee of Dallas. The Blakes led the group in praise choruses, along with performing several solo and duo selections.

Lee and his puppets entertained the crowd with humor while also teaching a spiritual value. Lee and his friend Aunt Grace, for example, admonished the students not to allow their busy school schedules to negate their relationships with God, family, and friends.

Keith Tonkel, pastor of Wells United Methodist Church in Jackson, defined Christian hope during his sermon on Friday night.



Dennis Lee



Keith Tonkel



Rob Boyd



Dottie Williamson

Dottie Williamson, a home missionary serving in multihousing ministry along the Gulf Coast, closed the annual student gathering. She asked the students, "Who's to blame if our neighbors don't hear the gospel?"

"He holds us accountable," she answered. "You can do one of four things: decide to do nothing; let others keep you from doing anything; get busy with 'church work' inside the four walls of the church building; or continually live a life committed to the Lord, doing what he asks, wherever he asks."

"What did Jesus do?" she questioned. "He walked the roads meeting the needs of the people he met along the way. He calls us to do nothing less."

Taking Romans 5:1-5 as his text, Tonkel said, "Our relationship with Christ is the foundation of our hope. Jesus in me is the hope of glory."

But, he noted, the Christian's hope is not futuristic only; it is also present.

"People are looking for hope," he said. "When they come to you asking, 'Is there any hope?' Say, 'Yes! It is Jesus.'"

Rob Boyd, pastor of First Church, Indianola, spoke on Saturday morning, calling on the students to "stop wallowing in the mud." Like the prodigal son in Jesus' parable, Boyd said, "We wallow in spiritual mud and often are in no hurry to get out."

He described three kinds of mud that can trap a Christian: indifference, "Don't care"; mediocrity, "Don't want to live for Christ"; and worldliness, "Consumed by things."

"Worldly Christians are the most miserable people in the world," Boyd said.

"Our heavenly Father wants you to come home to him," he pleaded. "No matter where you are, it is only one step back home. The Father wants to give you a fresh beginning."

The 23rd annual Church Media Library (CML) Conference will be held Oct. 21-22, at First Church, Columbus. The conference will help church media library workers in every phase of their responsibilities.

The 1994-95 CML theme is "Focus on Witnessing."

Conference leaders include Barbara Freese, Stephen Gateley, and Pat Brown, consultants in the CML Program. Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB); Jackie Anderson, retired senior staff consultant in the CML Program, BSSB; David Tiller, retail training coordinator in Retail Marketing Services Department, BSSB; Bill Jones, head of User Services at Mervyn H. Sterne Library at the University of Alabama



Tiller



Freese

at Birmingham and director the development of Master Library System; and Mark Jones, system developer of Master Library System from Huntsville, Ala.

Courses being offered this year include: Basic Classification and Cataloging, Classification and Cataloging Beyond the Basics, How To Witness with Media, Instructional Media for Churches, Church Media Library Administration in a Smaller Membership Church, Using Master Library System, Preserving Your Church's Media and Weeding, How to Operate a Church Media Library, Promotion with Pizzazz, Preparing Print Media for Circulation, and Preparing Audiovisuals for Circulation.

Joey Shorter, minister of education, First, Columbus, will share a devotional during the opening session; Pat Brown will present adult book reviews, while Stephen Gateley will present youth book reviews, and Barbara Freese will have children's book reviews.

Suggested motels are: Comfort Inn at 1210 US Hwy 45N, phone (601) 329-2422; Hampton Inn at 2015 Military Road, phone (601) 328-6720; and accommodations at Mississippi University for Women (MUW). For reservations at MUW, contact Juanita Hight at (601) 773-3446 or (601) 773-6426.

Attendees must make their own



B. Jones



Brown

lodging reservations. Be sure to ask for Mississippi Church Media Library rate. This is a football weekend for this area, so don't delay.

Registration fee is \$10 per person, including lunch and dinner at the church on Friday and conference materials. Reservations are needed. Registration deadline is being extended until Oct. 12. Make checks payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and mail to Broadcast Services/CML, P.O. Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530.

The Baptist Book Store will have a display and will be open for church media library workers.

Agenda for the conference begins Friday with registration at 9 a.m. in the church sanctuary foyer, with the opening session beginning at 10. The Friday session will conclude at 9 p.m.

A free breakfast sponsored by MUW, in the first floor Welty Atrium, will start Saturday's schedule at 7 a.m. The CML conference concludes on Saturday at 12:30 p.m.

For more information contact Broadcast Services Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at (800) 748-1651 or (601) 968-3800.



M. Jones



Anderson



Gateley

## Conference for the Deaf scheduled for Oct. 7-9

The Mississippi Baptist Conference for the Deaf takes place Oct. 7-9 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton. The conference will be conducted in both sign language and voice. Theme for the program is "Touch Our World for Christ."

Program leaders will be Southern Baptist missionaries Nan Jordan and Stan Stapleton. Jordan works with the deaf in Japan, while Stapleton works with the deaf in the Dominican Republic.

The missionaries will be joined on the program by a number of laypersons who will talk about their mission trips associated with deaf work. There will also be a mission fair.

Sam Gore of Mississippi College will sculpt "Three Faces," an interpretation of the brotherhood of mankind. Church groups will perform dramas, and there will be Bible studies, worship, and fellowship.

Registration begins at 5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 7, and the conference concludes after lunch on Sunday, Oct. 9. Cost is \$47.25.

For more information, contact Jim Booth in the Missions Extension and Association Administration Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, toll-free (800) 748-1651, or TTY/TDD (601) 353-2231.

## Reconciliation event Oct. 18-19

The 1994 Celebration of Reconciliation in Christ, sponsored by Mission Mississippi, will be held Oct. 18-19.

The Tuesday session begins at 7 p.m. and will feature Tony Evans, Pat Morley, Barbara Skinner, and the Mission Mississippi Mass Choir.

Wednesday evening's program has been designated youth night. Joseph Jennings will speak; music will be provided by Angelo & Veronia and Show & Tell.

Both sessions are free. For more information, call (601) 353-6477.



# BSSB sets \$250 million budget; Draper cites reasons for optimism

NASHVILLE (BP) — Baptist Sunday School Board trustees approved a 1994-95 budget exceeding \$250 million during their semiannual trustee meeting Sept. 26-27. Terming the budget aggressive but achievable, President James T. Draper Jr. cited his optimism for the agency's future despite financial challenges.

A record 1994-95 budget of \$250,480,000 in total revenue was approved, including \$3,374,000 in funds above operating expenses to reinvest in the board's operations.

Ted Warren, business services group vice president, said while financial data for fiscal 1993-94, which ends Sept. 30, will not be available for several weeks, projections are for a \$3.7 million loss. He said total revenue of \$223,882,000 is anticipated, compared to total expenses of \$227,606,000. The loss has been expected, he said, because of expenditures designed to improve sales over the long term. He said a financial plan is in place for the next three years, with a goal to pay back loans and to operate out of cash flow by the end of 1997.

Draper said despite the financial challenges and "constant change" that have characterized his first three years as the agency's president, he is optimistic about the future.

Among specific reasons he cited are a solid customer base, a dedicated employee force, progress toward a goal of generating adequate cash flow from operations, cost containment and budgeting at a more realistic level, positive feedback from customers,

progress toward a goal of freeing employees to do their jobs and to identify and implement new ideas.

He pointed trustees to examples of materials and services which also represent reasons for optimism, including the response to the Experiencing God discipleship course and early response to "The Mind of Christ;" release of a new Experiencing God magazine as well as a new Broadman & Holman Experiencing God Study Bible and a new B&H trade edition of Experiencing God.

He also cited improvements in adult and youth Life and Work Sunday School curriculum; awards given a number of Broadman & Holman products in recent months; and a best-seller chart single by Genesis recording artist Amy Roth.

Draper said the board is nearing completion of the process of major organizational and structural changes that have resulted in reductions and changes in personnel. As of Sept. 15, the agency had 1,646 employees, a reduction of 121 or 6.8% from Aug. 15, 1991, when 1,767 persons were employed full time. That number will further decrease as recently announced reductions become effective.

Draper said the board has borrowed money, with trustee approval, for some of those investments. Reserve funds stand at \$49.9 million, he reported.

Charles A. Wilson, vice president of the board's trade and retail markets group, said record September sales of more than \$2.5 million are expected for Broadman

& Holman and that 15 titles have been released in September. The Experiencing God Study Bible and the trade edition of Experiencing God have generated sales of more than \$600,000 for the month. The fourth episode of Secret Adventures has generated sales of approximately \$250,000. A total of 60 B&H trade products will be released in 1994-95, he said.

In the retail division, Wilson said relocated and new Baptist Book Stores are generating increased sales volumes. For example, the relocated store in Fort Worth has increased its sales volume by 173%.

Trustees also approved setting prices of church literature for the April-May-June 1995 quarter at an increase of approximately 3% above current prices. At the same time, they approved prices for the short transition quarter of July-August 1995 to reflect a decrease of approximately 25% below the regular price for session-oriented materials.

Trustee Tommy French, pastor of Jefferson Church, Baton Rouge, La., presented a proposal to reduce the trustee board from its current 93 members to 55 by the year 2000. Each state with 20,000 church members is entitled to one trustee under the current plan and additional trustees are allowed for each additional 250,000 members.

The plan, which will be considered in the board's meeting in February 1995, would need subsequent approval by the SBC Executive Committee and by messengers to an annual meeting.

Thursday, October 6, 1994

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



## Survival weekend at USM

The Baptist Student Union at the University of Southern Mississippi hosted 55 students in Survival '94 on Aug. 19-21. The weekend was designed to help new students adjust to campus life from a Christian perspective. Activities included: seminars on topics including self-esteem, money management, and dating; a canoe ride; "family" (small groups led by upperclassmen) activities; and times of worship. An eight-week program, Basic Training, will serve as follow-up to Survival '94. It will involve students in worship and Bible study. Jennifer Myers, freshman from Bogie Chitto, said of the Survival weekend: "The thing that I liked most was the way people cared. I think that it will help me in my Christian walk to know that there are people who care and want to help."

## MC receives major grant

In a called news conference on Oct. 4, Howell W. Todd, president of Mississippi College, announced the school has been awarded a \$1 million undergraduate grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

The grant will be used to continue undergraduate research opportunities and to expand the Biology Department's training programs in biomedicine.

Prentiss Cox is head of the MC Biological Sciences Department.

## Carey trustees approve resolution on school's relationship to MBC

William Carey College trustees approved a resolution Sept. 30 citing their commitment to the school's traditional relationship with the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

The resolution, presented the same day to the Mississippi Baptist Education Commission, was prompted by the action taken by Mississippi College trustees Sept. 22. MC trustees voted to enlarge

their board from 15 to 24 and to name their own successors with the exception of six trustees which would be named by the MBC.

The resolution adopted by WCC trustees cited the school's 90-year relationship with the MBC, noting that Mississippi Baptists "have... strengthened and nurtured William Carey by providing significant financial support, by encouraging... students to

enroll in... the College, and by uplifting of prayers and other spiritual means...."

Because of that support, the resolution continues, "Mississippi Baptists deserve to be secure in their belief that William Carey College is and shall remain an institution of the Mississippi Baptist Convention."

Therefore, the resolution resolves, WCC trustees "acknowledge their fiduciary obligations to the Convention... that the Trustees... are elected by the Mississippi Baptist Convention... that the Board of Trustees hold assets of this institution as trustees of the Convention and as stewards for all Mississippi Baptists."

The trustees further resolve "their commitment to only approve future amendments of the College's articles of incorporation subject to authorization by the Mississippi Baptist Convention."

And finally, the trustees express gratitude for the Convention's "financial, student, and spiritual support and other evidences of confidence which the College receives from all Mississippi Baptists."

## Education Commission meets

The Christian Education Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention met in special session on Friday, Sept. 30, to discuss actions taken on Sept. 22 by the Mississippi College (MC) board of trustees.

The Commission "feels their revision of the college charter to change the method of trustees selection sends a message of alienation," among otherwise cooperating Mississippi Baptists, according to a brief statement released by the Commission.

"We also feel that the Mississippi College trustees have violated the trust of Mississippi Bap-

tists," the statement went on to say.

The Education Commission also stated its willingness to discuss issues with the MC board and work toward a solution of those issues, as well as its desire to open communications with trustees.

"We trust the Education Commission and Mississippi College board of trustees can use this as an opportunity to demonstrate how Christians can resolve difficult issues," the statement said.

The Commission's statement concluded with the promise to make a report to the Mississippi Baptist Convention at the appropriate time.

*Last week, The Baptist Record incorrectly listed two persons as trustees of Mississippi College. W.K. Paine of Jackson resigned July 29, 1994; Bill Alexander of Cleveland resigned in May 1994. Bernard Ebbers and Henry Hederman were elected by the board at its Sept. 22 meeting to replace the two men. Following is a statement issued by Alexander.*

### Statement of William B. Alexander

I had been a member of the board of trustees of Mississippi College for 20-25 years. I enjoyed it very much. I resigned in May 1994 because I was tired of making the trip from Cleveland to Jackson about every week.

I did not attend the Mississippi College board meeting in May nor did I attend the meeting held on Sept. 22. I had anticipated that I would be replaced as a board member after the convention in November but I was replaced at the Sept. 22 meeting.

Had I been at the meeting on Sept. 22 I would have voted against the proposal to permit the board to name 18 members and the convention to name only six. I have no problem with enlarging the board but I do have a serious problem with taking the Mississippi Baptist Convention out of the process.

Our school has been a Baptist institution for 167 years. While it is true that the convention does not furnish a lot of money to operate the school, it is certainly true that all of the Baptist ministers and Baptist laymen around the state as individuals furnish money to run the school and furnish their support as well as their children. I think it is very unfortunate that the board has done this just when Dr. Todd is trying to take hold of the management of Mississippi College. He is an outstanding person.

There is no doubt in my mind that Mississippi College will be made less Baptist by the action of the board.

It is my hope and prayer that the Mississippi College board of trustees will give a lot of thought and prayer to what they have done and change their minds.



# Dallas' Criswell stays busy on 50th anniversary at FBC

DALLAS (BP) — At 85, most Southern Baptist pastors have folded their tents and called it a career. W.A. Criswell will be 85 on Dec. 19, and chances are if you put up a tent anywhere in his vicinity, he would show up to preach in it.

That is one way of saying the venerable senior pastor of First Church, Dallas, is still doing what he does best — preaching.

"I thought that when we got another pastor to help me here at the church that I would be at such leisure," he said recently in his 32nd-floor office in the Lincoln Plaza across the street from the church.

"But I am doing more now than I have ever done in my life."

For instance, he noted, he recently has preached in San Diego, in Jackson, Tenn., and in several Dallas-area churches, most of the time on behalf of Criswell College.

"I used to rarely accept any invitations outside the church," said Criswell. "Now I am going all over creation."

"This is what I call retirement," he said with a laugh. "I never dreamed it would be like this."

Criswell was 34 years old and the pastor of First Church, Muskogee, Okla., when he was called to succeed the Baptist legend, George W. Truett, who had been pastor at the Dallas church 47 years.

That was the highlight of his ministerial career, he said.

"Hardly anything could ever happen in the life of a preacher like their choice of me to follow Dr. Truett," he said. "Can you imagine a boy in Muskogee, Okla., being called to follow that great man?"

Criswell is a native of Eldorado, Okla., the son of a cowboy-turned-barber, but was reared in Texline in the northeast tip of the Texas Panhandle. He felt called to preach when he was six, made his public profession of faith at 10, and began to preach when he was 17. He is a graduate of Baylor University and Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., where he earned a doctor of philosophy degree in 1937.

While at Southern, he was pastor of rural churches and at one of them met and married a young school teacher, Betty Marie Harris, who was the church pianist. The Criswells have a daughter, Mabel Anne.

In his early days, he said, his priority list was God first, then the church and family.

"If I had it to do over again I would change it to God, then family, and then the church," he said.

He has gained the most pleasure over the years from being able to preach, he said. "Preparing the sermon and delivering it has

been the No. 1 happiness of my heart and life. I love trying to bless the people."

He has seen many changes over his career and observed that today's church is "increasingly impotent in secular society."

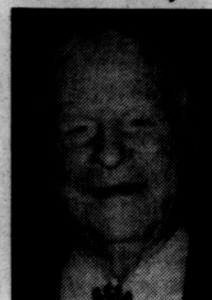
The decline, he said, is "because the preachers have turned aside from preaching the gospel. Instead of preaching the gospel and calling men to repentance and teaching the infallible, inerrant, inspired Word of God, they are talking about social issues, economic confrontations, political issues, headlines, travelogues, book reviews, God only knows what all."

"They have dismissed their prayer meetings on Wednesday nights and some have dismissed their Sunday night services."

"I think the preacher has just fallen away from the truth of God and has become a pawn in whatever social interest might invest his attention for the day."

Nevertheless, he says he has great hope for the future of his church under the leadership of O.S. Hawkins and for the Southern Baptist Convention.

He is proud of his Southern Baptist ties, he said, denying the oft-repeated rumor that had he to do it over again he would be an independent Baptist. He might have said that "just trying to be sarcastic," he said, "but if you mean by independent that I would not be in the Southern Baptist Convention, that is not true."



Criswell

## Diamondhead's SuperSummer

Youths from Diamondhead Church recently participated in the seventh annual week-long SuperSummer Christian youth camp, held on the campus of Charleston Southern University in Charleston, S.C. The camp ministered to over 1,100 youths from 70 churches in eight states across the Southeast, and reported 407 decisions for Christ. For more information on SuperSummer, call the university at (803) 863-8044.

## Mohler gets backing in the wake of Marshall's forced resignation

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — R. Albert Mohler Jr., who sought the resignation of associate professor of theology Molly Marshall, has received a laudatory statement endorsed with four pages of signatures from pastors and lay people.

Mohler, just a year into his presidency of Southern Seminary, requested the resignation of Marshall, a 10-year faculty member; otherwise, Mohler told her, he would initiate formal proceedings against her for teaching outside the seminary's doctrinal Abstract of Principles. After her Aug. 22 resignation, Mohler said he felt it inappropriate to discuss theological issues that would have been raised.

The statement of affirmation of Mohler was circulated by three pastors in Louisville, Ky.: Michael W. Routt of Eastern Gate Church; Bill Hancock of Highview Church and a former chairman of the Foreign Mission Board; and Terry Sammons of New Heights Church.

The statement they circulated made no direct reference to the Marshall resignation, but a cover letter penned by Routt did.

"This statement of affirmation is a response to the harsh criticism Dr. Mohler has received recently as a result of the resignation of Dr. Molly Marshall," Routt stated.

The forced resignation was criticized by the faculty in an Aug. 26 meeting and, earlier and in stronger words, by an informal faculty group and the officers of two student groups.

Members of the SBC Executive Committee approved a resolution during their Sept. 19-20 meeting affirming Mohler, although not mentioning the controversy over Mohler's request for Marshall's resignation.

The resolution, submitted by James Merritt, pastor of First Church of Snellville, Ga., stated, "Dr. Mohler's sensitivity to the concerns, intents, and purposes of the supporting constituency of the seminary... and the trustees duly elected by the Southern Baptist Convention reflects the kind of servant leadership and commitment to Christ and to our Baptist and evangelical faith that will, in our perspective, maintain Southern Seminary as an institution of distinctive academic recognition."

## Georgia study completed

ATLANTA (ABP) — A committee studying what constitutes membership in the Georgia Baptist Convention affirmed the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program as the state convention's "principle channel" of financial support but recommended that churches which defund SBC programs not be penalized in Georgia Baptist life.

The committee, which will bring recommendations to the convention's Nov. 14-16 annual meeting in Macon, presented its report as information to the

state's executive committee, meeting Sept. 13 in Atlanta.

The Committee To Study Harmony and Cooperation was established by vote of last year's convention when it adopted a motion by Floyd Roebuck, pastor of First Church of Rome. Roebuck called for the study after a 1993 nominating committee announced it would consider for leadership positions only Georgia Baptists from churches that gave at least 7% of undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program.

## Conservative strategists meet following Executive Committee

NASHVILLE (ABP) — Strategists for the conservative movement met behind closed doors Sept. 21 in Nashville to hear of plans and progress of their movement within state conventions.

The group, organized by T.C. Pinckney of Alexandria, Va., met on the heels of the fall meeting of the Executive Committee, of which Pinckney serves as secretary. Other members of the Executive Committee also participated.

In recent years, the group has met periodically, most often following the Executive Committee, to help extend the influence of conservatives in state conventions.

Pinckney, a retired Air Force general, said no head count was taken, but by "a good estimate," 25-30 people attended the meeting from several states. Most were not Executive Committee members, he added. He declined to say where the meeting was held.

Conservatives have targeted the state convention presidencies, hoping to repeat the success they had in using the Southern Baptist Convention presidency to steer the national SBC onto a more conservative course. Most state presidencies carry power to appoint important committees that choose state

leaders.

But the effort was less than successful last fall. Presidential candidates backed by conservative forces lost in at least seven large Baptist conventions — in Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, North Carolina, Texas, and Virginia.

Asked if the group expects to make any gains in state convention meetings this fall, Pinckney said: "We really didn't talk in those kinds of terms. We didn't try to make any assessment state by state

or even a representative sampling."

Pinckney said the loosely structured state-level group, which has met at least five times in the last two years, does not have a national strategy for gaining control of the state conventions but meets merely to exchange experiences from their states.

Pinckney described the meeting as a "sort of general sharing session" with no set agenda. "In very general terms, we talked about a variety of subjects really across a very wide spectrum," he said.

## Va. conservatives select leader

COLONIAL HEIGHTS, Va. (ABP) — Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia (SBCV) elected Fredericksburg pastor Bob Melvin as president and adopted a \$105,000 budget Sept. 15.

The actions came during the second annual meeting of the organization of Virginia Baptists sympathetic with the conservative direction taken by the Southern Baptist Convention since 1979. The organization formed in 1993 to counter what its founders charged was a weakening of ties between the SBC and the more moderate Baptist General Association of Virginia.

Melvin, pastor of Spotswood Church, Fredericksburg, will preside at a time when SBCV is solidifying its structure. Last July the group's executive committee employed evangelist Howard Baldwin as interim executive director, a move leaders described as an attempt to "mobilize support and gain strength."

About 30% of SBCV's 1994-95 budget will help Baldwin accomplish that goal. He will receive a \$9,000 salary with travel expenses.



# HOUSE TOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

October 6, 1994

HouseTops is a supplement to the Baptist Record and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

## BAPTIST 101

### Prayer



Baptists believe that prayer is, simply, talking with God. The "without ceasing" clause in the Bible we know we ought to claim more often. We know that God won't do everything we ask in prayer, else we'd be controlling him. But we do believe that God does answer our prayers. Sometimes he says "yes," sometimes "no," sometimes "not yet," and sometimes he says "I want you to do this work for me." We think that when we pray the main change is in us. And as we communicate regularly with God, we get in touch with his will for our lives.

*This is one in a series of articles on Baptists--who we are and what we stand for.*

**One Voice**, a singing and drama group composed of 21 Mississippi music leaders who auditioned for their roles, will perform at the SBC National Drama Festival, Nov. 11-13, at Two Rivers Baptist Church in Nashville. This festival takes place every four years.

## Bible Drill CLINICS

Bible Drill Leadership Development

### NOVEMBER 7

CITY	CHURCH	TIME	LEADER
Greenwood	First Baptist Church	7:00 - 8:30	Steve Jackson
Hernando	Hernando Baptist Church	7:00 - 8:30	Lillian Walters
Biloxi	First Baptist Church	7:00 - 8:30	Tom & Lucile Winstead

### NOVEMBER 8

CITY	CHURCH	TIME	LEADER
Clinton	First Baptist Church	7:00 - 8:30	Steve Jackson
Tupelo	First Baptist Church	7:00 - 8:30	Lillian Walters
Hattiesburg	First Baptist Church	7:00 - 8:30	Tom & Lucile Winstead

### NOVEMBER 10

CITY	CHURCH	TIME	LEADER
Starkville	Calvary Baptist Church	7:00 - 8:30	Steve Jackson
Brookhaven	First Baptist Church	7:00 - 8:30	Lillian Walters
Meridian	First Baptist Church	7:00 - 8:30	Tom & Lucile Winstead

Bible Skills for Women and Youth



# Pray this day... October 16-31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
For Directors of Associational Missions in Mississippi and their counterparts around the world <b>16</b>	For the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering <b>17</b>	For the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering <b>18</b>	For the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering <b>19</b>	For the Mississippi Edwina Robinson Special Day Offering <b>20</b>	For missionaries who teach their children at home <b>21</b>	For missionary/government relationships <b>22</b>
For missionary/civic leader relationships <b>23</b>	For media missionaries <b>24</b>	For safety of national Christians and missionaries <b>25</b>	For spiritual growth of new Christians <b>26</b>	For destitute and desolate communities torn by war <b>27</b>	For local church leaders here and abroad <b>28</b>	For joy in the hearts of all of us as we work <b>29</b>
For a sense of God's presence with us each day <b>30</b>	For a dear friend who has special needs <b>31</b>	<p><b>WorldSpan</b> - prayer partnership between Mississippians and missionaries from Mississippi or with Mississippi ties...this month we will use the suggested general prayer requests, adding specific people and situations that we know about... then next month we will begin with prayer requests the missionaries have sent us.</p> <p>If you wish to enroll in WorldSpan, please return the form provided as part of this prayer calendar...</p> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I'll be a part of WorldSpan!  Name _____  Address _____  Town _____ State _____  Zip _____ Phone _____  Return form to: <b>Prayer Ministry Office, MBCB,</b>  P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. </div>				

## Lay Missions Conference



*The purpose of the Lay Missions Conference is to help explore ways to extend Christ's Kingdom through the concept of Marketplace Ministry. If we are to win Mississippi and the world to Jesus in our generation, it is significant that each of us become marketplace ministers.*

October 31, 1994  
**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSON**  
**MISSIONS FELLOWSHIPS &**

**INTEREST CONFERENCES: 3 P.M.**

**BANQUET: 5 P.M.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Return form to: **Prayer Ministry Office, MBCB,**  
 P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

# HOUSE OF



## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, LAUREL

The Medical/Dental team from First Baptist Church, Laurel (pictured below), recently spent a week in Manto, Honduras. Five physicians, three nurses, and three dentists plus support personnel provided care for 3,400 patients. Many of them had never seen a doctor or dentist.

The team stayed in the local Catholic church, at their invitation. They were able to use all of their facilities. Evangelistic services were conducted each evening and there were 51 decisions for Christ. Missionaries Mike Simpson and Ralph Wilson feel that this will be the beginning of a Baptist church in that community.



## PARTNERSHIP REPORTS



## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, BELMONT HAS ALASKA TEAM

In July, First Baptist Church, Belmont, had a team to go to Alaska and work with two churches.

Ten members did construction work with First Baptist, Delta Junction. They removed a wall, built a front entrance, and placed underpinnings around the building.

The remaining 12 served the Salcha Baptist Church by conducting Vacation Bible School in a state park. Jack Maroon, pastor of the Belmont Church, preached revival services and other members provided music.

Tishomingo County Baptist Association has a partnership with the Salcha Church.

Projects are now being accumulated for 1995. Persons interested in a project in Alaska or Honduras should make further inquiries to the Partnership Missions Office at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 or to 601/968-3800.

## Church Discovery Weekend



*Directors of Missions receive training in holding Discovery Weekends.*

"A church where everybody is somebody and Jesus is Lord," was one proposed mission statement at a church which has held a Discovery Weekend.

The development of that mission statement and the development of ministries evolving out of that statement are what the Discovery Weekends are all about.

They work this way: A pastor invites a LIFT team in for a weekend. That stands for Lay Involvement for Transforming the Church. Membership groups attend a Saturday evening dinner where the LIFT team gives an overview of the area's demographics. Then the participants respond to a survey about their level of satisfaction with various

areas of church life.

The next morning the team members lead in Sunday School and worship services. That afternoon, the membership gets together for an "ideastorming" session. In that session, they suggest possible ways the church could minister in three specific areas: Bible study, Christian witness, and equipping

the membership for ministry. The LIFT team is there simply to facilitate the meeting, never to suggest what the church ought to be doing.

After that the team leaves and the church meets for the evening service to begin to see where they will go from there.

The convention board provides one of the team members for six months of follow up. If a church wants to get involved in a certain ministry, the consultant is ready to offer training in that area.

In 1994, the board has scheduled 19 Discovery Weekends with 1995 wide open and ready for churches to participate.



*Members of Calvary Church, Columbus, R.D. and Nancy Christian, explain ideas gathered during a brainstorming session at a Discovery Weekend at their church. Roy Hawkins is pastor.*



# 1994 Youth Ministers conference

**October 17-19  
Lake Tiak O'Khata  
Louisville, Miss.**



Candy Anderson



Rob Boyd



Billy Beacham



Jim Minton



Michael Passons

## schedule

**MONDAY**--College Ministry  
Update at 11:00 a.m., registration at  
1:30 p.m., beginning session at 2:00 p.m.,  
adjourn for the evening at 9:00 p.m.

**TUESDAY**--Breakfast at 7:00 a.m., beginning  
session at 8:15 a.m., afternoon free or appoint-  
ments with program leaders and convention  
board leaders, evening session at 7:15 p.m.,  
adjourn for the evening at 9:30 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY**--Breakfast at 7:00 a.m., beginning  
session at 8:15 a.m., adjourn conference at  
10:00 a.m.

## highlights

**DEVOTIONALS**--Rob Boyd, pastor, First Baptist Church, Indianola

**MUSIC**--Michael Passons, professional musician, Nashville

**SESSIONS FOR WIVES**--Candy Anderson, pastor's wife, Clinton

**GENERAL SESSIONS**--with Jim Minton, professor of Youth & Recreation,  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; Billy Beacham, Student  
Discipleship Ministries, Fort Worth

## finances

The charge for lodging and meals is the only  
cost for this conference. Payment is to be  
made to Lake Tiak O'Khata. All prices  
include tax and gratuity and are per person:

Two nights lodging and five meals:

- 1 to a room — \$110.00
- 2 to a room — \$81.75
- 3 to a room — \$68.25
- 4 to a room — \$58.25

Meals without lodging:

- Breakfast — \$5.50
- Lunch — \$6.65
- Dinner — \$8.00

## reservations

Call Lake Tiak O'Khata (773-7853) or write Lake Tiak  
O'Khata, P.O. Box 160, Louisville, MS 39339. A block  
of rooms is being held for this conference until October  
3. At that time all rooms which have been on hold will  
be released. It is necessary to guarantee the accommo-  
dations with a credit card or send a deposit of \$45.00.  
Cancellation will be accepted if received by Lake Tiak  
O'Khata prior to October 13. Preschool child care will  
be provided at FBC, Louisville, at no additional cost.

## registration

Complete the form and return to: Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries  
Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 no later than **October 13, 1994**.  
It is necessary that your registration be received by this date so that adequate  
preparation can be made.

### Registration form

Youth Ministers Conference, October 17-19, 1994  
Lake Tiak O'Khata

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's first name, if attending \_\_\_\_\_

Number and Age of Children, if attending \_\_\_\_\_

Office Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name \_\_\_\_\_ Association Name \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I have made reservations at Lake Tiak O'Khata

☐ I will not need a room, but will plan to eat the following meals:

- ☐ Monday Dinner
- ☐ Tuesday Dinner
- ☐ Tuesday Breakfast
- ☐ Wednesday Breakfast
- ☐ Tuesday Lunch

A new season is about upon us--the season of  
foreign missions. The Week of Prayer is  
December 4-11. The foreign mission study is  
November 20-24. And foreign mission day  
in Sunday School is December 4. Materials  
are being mailed to every church in  
Mississippi. These materials include a poster,  
prayer guide, and envelope, a program cover,  
and an order form. The program covers may

be ordered from the Baptist Book Store. The  
rest are available free on request from the  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Also,  
now is the time to order the foreign mission  
study--this year on Eastern Europe. And it is  
time to begin praying about your special con-  
tribution to the Lottie Moon Offering for  
Foreign Missions.

## Peace of Mind

Internal peace is impossible if you are held  
captive by a painful, destructive past. But  
emotional and spiritual healing is possible  
for every child of God--and well worth the  
effort required to achieve it.

The Lay Institute for Equipping (LIFE)  
course *Making Peace with Your Past* can  
bring healing to lives suffering from past  
hurts. This 12 unit course allows adults  
who were raised in dysfunctional families  
to identify and understand problems and  
feelings from childhood; to identify ways  
the past affects their present lives; to unlock  
feelings and experience hope, healing, and  
forgiveness; to experience trust, honesty,  
and unconditional love in a small-group  
setting; and to identify and remove emo-  
tional and spiritual barriers to fellowship  
with God.

You can learn how to overcome the pain of  
the past by studying *Making Peace with  
Your Past* in a group at church. The mem-  
ber's book (item 7636-14) and leader's  
guide (item 7616-14) are available from a  
Baptist Book Store or from the Customer  
Service Center; 127 Ninth Avenue, North;  
Nashville, TN 37234; 1-800-458-2772.

# DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

## Attention Bivo Ministers'

The Bivocational Ministers' Fellowship  
meets during the Mississippi Baptist  
Convention on November 2 at the Admiral  
Benbow Inn on North State Street, 7:00-  
8:15 a.m. The meeting will include elec-  
tion of state fellowship officers and reports  
of bivo ministry around the SBC and in  
Mississippi. This is a complimentary break-  
fast. No pre-registration is necessary.  
Jimmy McCaleb is state president of the  
group. Matt Buckles is convention board  
consultant for bivo work.

# HOUSE OF



# Baptist colleges, two SBC agencies join "World A" push

WILLIAMSBURG, Ky. (BP) — A consortium of 43 Southern Baptist-related colleges and universities has approved a cooperative agreement with the Foreign Mission Board (FMB) and Education Commission designed to strengthen and expand international education exchange programs.

The coalition of schools, known as Cooperative Services International Education Consortium (CSIEC), has worked with the FMB's Cooperative Services International since 1987 to coordinate exchange of professors and students and to establish satellite higher education programs predominantly in "World A," countries where missionaries are not allowed or are restricted.

CSIEC currently is involved in about 300 projects with educational institutions in 80 countries,

particularly in China, the former Soviet republics, and other countries known as World A among Baptist missiologists.

Under the new agreement ratified by CSIEC member schools Sept. 23 at Cumberland College in Williamsburg, Ky., the two SBC agencies will each contribute about \$30,000 per year to help fund an administrator and a clerical person for CSIEC who will operate out of Education Commission offices at the SBC Building in Nashville. The FMB and Education Commission also will help establish and maintain an international computer data bank designed to match up member schools with overseas opportunities.

Other contributions by the two SBC agencies will include the continuation of start-up grants in

the amount of \$5,000-\$10,000, funded by the FMB to help two or three schools each year establish new exchange programs, and the use of Education Commission office equipment and staff support in the areas of communications, training, data base management, and coordination.

Stephen P. Carleton, executive director of the Education Commission, said the agreement is an important part of helping Southern Baptists expand their mission outreach of service and sharing through higher education.

"This agreement will require a major reorganization and reallocation of resources of our small agency in order to assist the schools in this vital missions and education effort," Carleton explained. "The Education Commission is grateful to FMB Presi-

dent Jerry Rankin and to Lewis Myers, vice president for World A strategy, for joining the commission in this effort involving professors and students at Southern Baptist-related colleges and universities and at some of the world's most prestigious educational institutions abroad."

Carleton said the investment of the 43 member schools in CSIEC personnel, students, and support is estimated at more than \$1 million annually. "The use of Cooperative Program funds and resources from the FMB and the Education Commission is a wise investment," Carleton said.

Dan Grant, president of CSIEC and president emeritus of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas, who has served as volunteer director of CSIEC for several years, said, "This agreement between three Southern Baptist entities is the next logical step in meeting the growing number of urgent requests from the Foreign

Mission Board and from educational institutions throughout the world."

Myers, who formerly served as director of the FMB's CSI program and helped establish CSIEC, said, "The increased involvement of Christian higher education institutions in World A has great potential for enhancing the quality of education on our campuses as well as providing unparalleled Christian presence and witness in the more restricted areas of the world."

In an address to members of CSIEC, Myers challenged the colleges and universities to consider expanding their programs in China and starting programs in North Africa where he said there is a critical need for educational exchanges and Christian lifestyle witness.

Member colleges and universities of CSIEC include Mississippi College and William Carey College.

## Promise Keepers providing foundation for men's commitment to God, family

By Jim Phillips

In March 1990, University of Colorado head football coach Bill McCartney had a vision of Christian men from across the country descending on Boulder, Colo.

The men would gather from different denominations, races, states, and experiences to unite for one purpose — to celebrate their faith in Jesus Christ.

They would establish that their walk with the Lord and their family relationships were inseparably linked. They would come to believe accountability to one another is the foundation of their strength.

God started a spark that became a blaze called "Promise Keepers."

I had the pleasure of attending Promise Keepers '94 in Boulder on July 29-30.

It was an exhaustive weekend

that many compared to summer camp. The 50 U.S. states and six nations were represented among the 52,000 men in attendance.

A Promise Keeper is committed to:

- honor Jesus Christ through worship, prayer, and obedience to his Word.

- pursue vital relationships with other men, understanding that brothers are needed to help keep promises.

- practice spiritual, moral, ethical, and sexual purity.

- build a strong marriage and family through love, protection, and biblical values.

- support his church's mission by honoring the pastor and actively giving of his time and resources.

- reach beyond racial and denominational barriers to demonstrate the power of biblical unity.

- influence his world by being obedient to the Great Commandment (Mark 12:30-31) and the Great Commission

(Matt. 28:19-20).

There are no dues or fees. There is a plan whereby local Promise Keepers chapters and groups can unite in a church and community to deepen the bonds of Christian manhood to impact their homes and communities.

Through Promise Keepers, God can change hearts and challenge convictions about what a true man of God does in the kingdom.

The book, *Seven Promises of a Promise Keeper* from Focus on the Family Publishing, can be purchased through local Christian bookstores.

The next Promise Keepers weekend is scheduled for Oct. 28-29 at Texas Stadium outside Dallas.

For more information, contact Promise Keepers at P.O. Box 18376, Boulder, CO 80308; phone (303) 421-2800.

Phillips is pastor of North Greenwood Church, Greenwood.



## LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ed.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

*My dysfunctional family continues to be an open sore in my adult life. Is constantly confronting them the only way to put the hurt behind me?*

*Sunday mornings are disastrous! By the time I arrive at church, I don't feel very worshipful.*

Philippians 1:19 states, "... what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance" (NIV). Ephesians 4:15 says, "Instead, speaking the truth in love..." (NIV). These passages sum up your responsibility to your past. It hurts to admit dysfunction, but what you do with it as an adult is your responsibility. I am encouraged that you have confronted your past and tried to rectify the situation, but this sometimes falls on deaf ears. Speaking the truth in love, with sincerity and genuineness, is a good way to achieve change in another person. If they choose not to change, move on and concentrate on God's grace as you seek the path to peace for yourself. Love God, yourself, and others by looking for ministries to people in need. Once you give yourself away in prayer to God and service to others, you will find satisfaction and there will be less room for the hurt of the past.

Oh, how many times we have all felt this way. I firmly believe Satan works overtime on Sunday mornings so we cannot hear God when we enter the sanctuary — a place of refuge and peace. Have a plan that involves all members of the family:

- Pray together at bedtime for God's peace in the morning.

- Make lunch plans and as many other preparations as possible on the night before.

- Enlist every family member with a Sunday morning task, such as breakfast, collecting Bibles, etc.

- Play soothing Christian music as everyone wakes up.

- Sing on the way to church. Let the younger children read their Sunday School lessons, and memorize Bible verses.

I have had several questions related to this issue, and I invite readers to send suggestions that work for your family. The suggestions will appear in a future column.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

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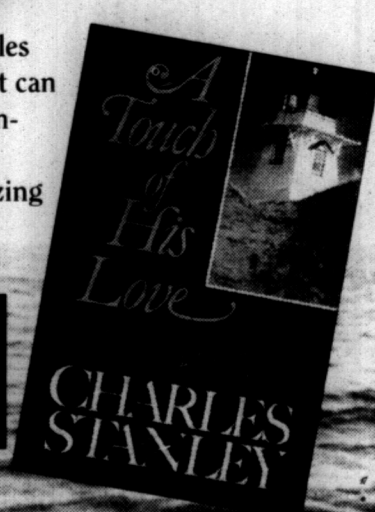


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## Just for the Record



**Sardis Lake Church**, Panola Association, held "Four Fabulous Sundays" in August. Above, members dressed for old fashioned day. The church also observed a high attendance day and a day for celebration of fellowship. The month was begun with a mission challenge from seven Sardis Lake members who matched gifts penny-for-dollar. Kevin Crofford is pastor.



**Iuka Church** recently honored four GAs on completion of their mission adventures. They are (left to right): Ashley Blake, Stephanie South, Lana Arnold, and Aimee Kirk. Jane Blake is GA leader; Julian West is pastor.



**Iuka Church** recently honored its pastor, Julian West, and his wife Pat with a reception and gift on their 10th anniversary of service to the church. The occasion coincided with the couple's 39th wedding anniversary, and West's 40th year in ministry.

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## East Louisville marks 50 years

East Louisville Church, Louisville, will mark its 50th anniversary on Oct. 23, beginning at 10 a.m.

Hollis Bryant will deliver the message. Doug Hubbard Jr. will lead music.

A noon fellowship meal is planned, followed by an afternoon of singing with the Spokesmen.

For more information, contact the church at (601) 773-9807. Keith Powell is pastor.

## Missionary News

**David and Mary Sills**, missionaries to Ecuador, are in the States (address: 3331 Old Canton Rd., Jackson, MS 39216). He is a native of Jackson. The former Mary Phillips, she was born in Alexandria, La., and considers Jackson her hometown.

**Jerry and Glenda White**, missionaries to South Korea, are in the States (address: 109 Kingsgate Ln., Franklin, TN 37064). Natives of Mississippi, he was born in Marion County; she, the former Glenda Nix, was born in Montrose and grew up in Bay Springs.

**Felix and Dene Greer**, missionaries to Liberia, are in the States (address: 442 Cummins St., Jackson, MS 39204). He was born in New Orleans and lived in Vicksburg, Clinton, and Jackson. She is the former Dene Brummett of Jackson.

**Margaret Fairburn**, missionary to Liberia, is on assignment in Ivory Coast (address: Mission Baptiste Meridiona, B.P. 580, San Pedro, Ivory Coast). She is a native of Tylertown.

**Gregory and Karen Massey**, missionaries to Argentina, are in the States (address: 3513 36th St., Meridian, MS 39305). They are natives of Meridian. She is the former Karen Lawson.

**Pineview Church, Hattiesburg**, will have October Outdoors each Sunday night in October at 7 p.m. Special guests will be The Celoria Brothers, Oct. 2; Danny Lafferty, Oct. 9; Newlife, Oct. 16; All 2 Hear, Oct. 23; and Bo Parker, Oct. 30.

**Fellowship Church, Starkville**, celebrated its first baptism Sept. 14. John Crump, pastor, baptized Katie Alford, daughter of Pat and Brenda Alford.

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## Revival Dates

**Union, Brookhaven:** Oct. 16-19; "Wake-up Call;" Sunday, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Clayton Hart, Brookhaven, evangelist; Ron Simpson, pastor.

**Pearlhaven, Brookhaven:** Oct. 9-12; Sunday, homecoming; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11; dinner in fellowship hall; afternoon service, 1:30; Ronnie Burch, Lucedale, guest speaker and evangelist; revival through Wed., 7 nightly; George Linton Jr., music; Lonnie Case, pastor.

**Springdale, West:** Oct. 16-21; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 nightly; Steve Taylor, Guyton, Ga., evangelist; Robbie Robinson, Sallis, music; Tim Weisheim, pastor.

**Harmontown (Lafayette):** Oct. 9-13; Sunday, 6 p.m.; 7:30 nightly; Jack Gregory, Carey Chapel, evangelist; Chuck Waller, Union West, music; Barry Littlefield, pastor; Glenn Herring, music director.

**Jackson Landing Road, Nicholson:** Oct. 9-12; Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner on the grounds, and 7 p.m.; Jimmy Kinnard, Kenner, La., evangelist; Phillip Butler, Sumrall, music; D.J. Speckner, pastor.

**Faith, Hickory Flat:** Oct. 9-12; Sunday, Winston Ross will be the speaker for 11 a.m. service; 7 p.m. nightly; Charlie Cooper, Rienzi, evangelist; Cathy and Rusty Miller, Ecu, music; W.G. Dowdy, pastor.

**Flag Chapel, Jackson:** Oct.

16-20; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Dan Carr, Gulfport, evangelist.

**Silver City, Silver City:** Oct. 16-21; Sunday, homecoming, 60th anniversary; services, 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m., lunch served in fellowship hall, and afternoon singing; revival services, 7 p.m. nightly; Gary Reichenbach, Pottsboro, Texas, evangelist; Danny Guthrie, music; Jane Shurden, pianist; Billy Floyd, pastor.

**Calvary, Canton:** Oct. 23-26; services, 7 p.m.; Russell McIntyre, Clinton, evangelist; Graham Smith, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jackson, music; Jim Hurt, interim pastor.

## Harrisville marks 125

Harrisville Church, Simpson Association, will celebrate its 125th anniversary on Oct. 9 beginning at 10 a.m. Guest speaker will be D.J. Benson of Laurel.

The anniversary celebration will kick off the church's week-long revival. Services will be held nightly at 7 through Oct. 14.

Speakers for the week will be: Monday, Chet Dear of Mendenhall; Tuesday, Bill Harris, Anniston, Ala.; Wednesday, Gene Erwin, Georgetown; Thursday, E.L. Warren, Baton Rouge, La.; and Friday, Tommy Anderson, Pearl.

For more information, contact the church at (601) 847-1593. Dennis Allen is pastor.

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# Homecomings

Thursday, October 6, 1994

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

**Mt. Vernon (Leflore):** Oct. 9; worship services, 11 a.m.; covered dish dinner on the grounds at noon; afternoon singing; Larry Choccola, former pastor, guest speaker.

**Grace Memorial, Tupelo:** Oct. 9; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish in fellowship hall; 1:30 p.m. singing; Haynes Family, guest singers; church was organized Oct. 12, 1976 by Joe Holcomb, pastor.

**North Calvary, Philadelphia:** Oct. 9; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish in fellowship hall; David Kendall, former pastor, guest speaker; Keith Fulton, pastor.

**Center Grove, Meridian:** Oct. 9; services, 10:45 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; dinner on grounds; no night service; Charles Kottenbrook, Scooba, guest speaker; J. Edd Holloman, pastor.

**Damascus, Flora:** Oct. 9; 11 a.m.; lunch will be served following morning worship services in the Pearl Cloud Fellowship Hall; and afternoon singing; William E. (Sonny) Bradshaw Jr., pastor, speaker.

**Strengthford (Wayne):** Oct. 16; 10 a.m.; covered dish lunch at noon; music service with Magnolia Boys Quartet, 1:30 p.m.; Julian West,

guest speaker; Glen Bynum, pastor.

**Gooden Lake, Belzoni:** Oct. 16; Sunday, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish in fellowship hall at noon; 1:30 singing; C.J. Townsend, Fayette, Ala., guest speaker; Redeemers, Kilmichael, guest singers; Bill Hudson, pastor.

**Calvary, Braxton:** Oct. 9; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11; covered dish lunch in fellowship hall; no night service; Vance Dyess, Star, guest speaker; R.C. Rice, pastor.

**Holly Springs (Marion):** Oct. 9; 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall; afternoon singing with the Buckley Family, 1:30; no night service; Porter Buckley, Foxworth, guest speaker; Charles Williams, pastor.

**Clear Branch (Rankin):** Oct. 9; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11; dinner, noon; afternoon singing, 1:30, with Sammy McDonald; E.N. Sullivan, guest speaker; Tim McCaffrey, pastor.

**Mt. Carmel, Edinburg:** Oct. 16; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11; lunch in fellowship hall; harvest offering taken for building new parsonage; Bobby Waggoner, Attala Association DOM, guest speaker; Kim Wolverton, pastor.

**Glading, Magnolia:** Oct. 9; 10 a.m.; lunch, 1:15-2:30 p.m.; and afternoon singing; Charles Kirkfield, pastor, speaker.

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# Names in the News

**Burnis Barrett** announced his retirement from the ministry, effective Sept. 30. He was recently honored by First Church, Frederick, Md., where he has served as pastor for the past 20 years. He and his wife Clotene plan to remain in the Frederick area. The native of Columbus is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He pastored four churches in Mississippi before moving to Maryland, where he served two terms as president of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware.

**James Sclater**, Mississippi College professor of music, has been chosen to receive an American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) award for the 1994-95 school year. The cash awards are granted to



**Concord Church, Pelahatchie**, recently ordained **Dale Bridges** (second from left) and **Larry Purvis** (second from right) as deacons. **LaVerne Summerlin** (right) is pastor.

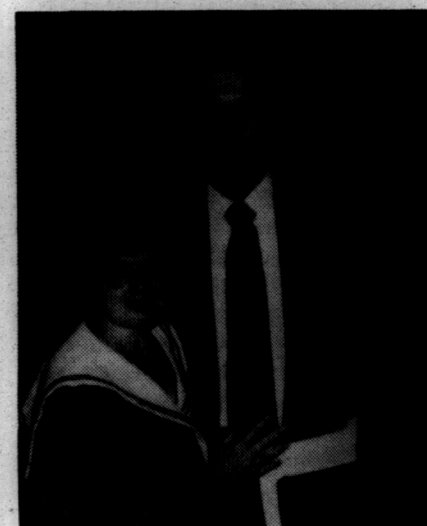
composers whose composition catalogs display "unique prestige value."

**Becky Hodges**, director of music and children at Faith Church, West Point, recently entered into a solo piano and vocal ministry. She can be reached at (601) 494-9699 or (601) 494-0920.

**Floyd and Effie Higginbotham** were recently honored by Pleasant Hill Church, Lincoln County, on the occasion of his 10th anniversary with the church. The Higginbothams received a money tree during a surprise reception in their honor.

**New Zion Church**, Crystal Springs, recently ordained **Walter Pat Drew** and **David Lee Patterson** as deacons. **LeRoy J. Brewer Jr.** is pastor.

**Gladys Honea** was recently honored by the music department of Glading Church, Magnolia, during the church's revival services.



**West Union Church, Carriere**, recently ordained **James McCormick** (above, with his wife Pat) as deacon. **Ken Rhodes**, Pearl River Association director of missions, and **Kenny Stockstill** delivered the charge to the candidate and the church. **Billy Dowdy** is pastor.

Honea has served 57 years as pianist for the congregation. She received a plaque of appreciation.

## Pulaski celebrates 100 years

Pulaski Church, Scott Association, will celebrate its 100th anniversary on Oct. 16.

Services will begin at 10:30 a.m. Bob Smith will be the guest speaker.

Following the morning service, there will be a dinner on the grounds. Afternoon services will begin at 1:30 with a children's show and the Leaf River Boys.

For more information, call the church at (601) 732-8163. Mickey Walls is pastor.

## Staff Changes

**Siloam Church**, West Point, has called **David Bishop** as pastor effective Sept. 11. A native of Ecu,



**Bishop**

he received his education at Blue Mountain College and New Orleans Seminary. He served four and a half years as HMB church planter/pastor. His previous place of service was in Salem, N.H.

**Belden Church**, Lee Association, has called **Mark Beam** of Tupelo as associate pastor, effective Aug. 15. He is a student at New Orleans Seminary.

**Steven Wright** has joined the staff at **North McComb Church**, McComb, as youth minister effective Aug. 28. His previous place of service was First Church, Pearl. He is presently enrolled as a student at New Orleans Seminary.

**Bayou View Church**, Gulfport, has called **Thomas O.**

**Mosser** as pastor, effective Oct. 2. The West Cola, S.C., native previously served First Southern Church of Pearlington. He is a graduate of Charleston Southern University and New Orleans Seminary.

**First Church**, Beaumont, has called **Julius Harbison** as pastor, effective Sept. 25. His previous place of service was Pachuta Church, Pachuta.

**Arnold Bridges** of Gulfport has recently retired after 40 years of church-related ministry. He



**Bridges**

and his wife Maryrose were honored with a love gift. Bridges has served as pastor, assistant pastor, and minister of music in churches. His last pastorate was Cambridge Church in Gautier. He is available for supply or interim work in either preaching or music and can be contacted at (601) 831-4459.



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## Uniform God chooses, empowers



By Richard Bradley  
Judges 7

Why God chooses to work through individuals is a mystery. That he does so is a fact. The book of Judges is an incredible testimony to the willingness and ability of God to inspire and utilize human beings to get his work done. With one breath God could have vanquished those who oppressed his people. Instead, he chose the most ordinary of people in whom to invest his power and wisdom. I, for one, am glad he did this. It gives me hope that he might work through me yet. If God chose only the mighty and the strong most of us would certainly be left out.

God told Gideon his army was too large and might feel that it had been victorious by its own strength (v. 2). God's strategy was to clearly demonstrate to the people that they had not delivered themselves from the Midianites. He wanted them to know with all certainty that they owed their freedom and deliverance to him alone. Their deliverance would not come by the power of their numbers or the simple superiority of their arms, but by the word of the Lord.

How proud we are! How arrogant we sometimes are! The theme or motto of the church today is often, "Look what we've done!" If our accomplishments are really based on what "we've done" then we've done nothing of any eternal significance. Only that which God does through us by his power lasts!

God reduced Gideon's army by allowing all of the fearful soldiers to return home (vv. 2-3). When is less more? When God says so! Likely, too much is made of the fact that these men were afraid. This is not why God sent them home. It is certainly not unusual for someone to be frightened when facing a possible mortal situation. This was simply one of the methods chosen by him. If we were permitted to quit and go home every time we got afraid, we would never accomplish anything in God's service. Were the eventual 300 frightened? Likely, but God still used them in a wonderful way.

God said that the army of 10,000 still was too large (vv. 4-7). Through a test involving how the men drank water, God reduced the army to 300 men. What do we learn from these verses? Probably this technique of drinking demonstrates neither superior military training nor proper drinking etiquette. God just simply needed 300 and not 10,000. God had a figure in his mind and he needed to get down to it.

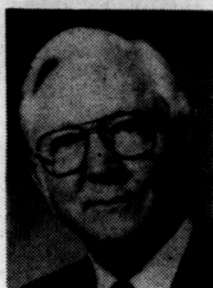
I've often heard it said that God used these methods to reduce the size of the army because he wanted to get down the very elite core of the fighting men. This thinking goes against the grain of everything we learn in this story. God was not striving to use the best; just the willing. God was not striving to use the most; just a few. God was not striving to use the most powerful; just the average would do. Three hundred average individuals who lapped water with their tongues rather than kneeling down to drink would be more than enough for God. God's people have always been and always will be a distinct minority. That makes no difference to God!

Using trumpets, pitchers, and torches, Gideon and his 300 men routed the enemy (vv. 19-21). Gideon's articles of warfare were not what we might expect. Trumpets, pitchers, and torches? Why not chariots, swords, and battering rams? Just not God's way! If the 300 had been victorious through the use of superior arms they might have said to themselves, "What a wonderful technology we have!" If the 300 had been victorious through the use of superior military training not available to their enemy they might have said, "What wonderful teachers we have, what a superior intellect we possess!" No, not God. Instead, God chose trumpets, pitchers, and torches. In the end, after the enemy had been routed and Israel had been saved once more, they could only say, "What a wonderful God we have!" This was, after all, God's plan all along.

Indeed what a wonderful God we do have. He can deliver by many or by a few. Makes no difference to God. His power is not limited by either our numbers or our inabilities. The 300 went in the power of God and the victory that resulted was sweet indeed!

Bradley is pastor, Handsboro Church, Gulfport.

## Bible Book Reconciled to Christ



By Raymond Kolb  
Ephesians 2

At the end of Chapter 1 Paul spoke of the church (universal church — all who are in Christ) as the body of Christ. Christ is the head; we are the body. For a body to be normal and healthy it is necessary that all members work together harmoniously, with each one carrying out its designated function under the control of the head (the brain, or control center). The body of Christ, the church, and each of its members, should always be under the control of the Head, Jesus Christ.

**Dead in sin (vv. 1-3).** As for you (all of us), you who were dead in your transgressions (falls) and sins (apparently referring here to sinful attitudes which lead to sinful acts)... (v. 1) — Paul is speaking here to Christians about what they were before they came to know Christ. You did as you pleased, trying to satisfy whatever sinful desires you may have had. You tried to satisfy self without reference to God. God does not like to be ignored.

**Alive in Christ (vv. 4-7).** "But God," the first two words in a literal translation of verse 4, emphasize the difference in being (spiritually) dead in transgressions and sins and being made alive in Christ. Yes, we were lost, "But God, being rich in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us" (v. 4) made all the difference. He made us alive (v. 4). We did not just decide of ourselves that we wanted to be alive spiritually. He wanted us to live. He took the initiative. He convinced us of our need. He offered forgiveness. He gave us a new nature. And all of this was free! "By grace you have been saved" (v. 5). "And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus" (v. 6). This is not a bodily resurrection yet. We are changed from being dead spiritually to being alive spiritually. This new relationship to Christ can give us a foretaste of what the complete reality will be when we are with Christ in heaven.

**Being in Christ (vv. 8-10).** We were lost. Now we are saved. How did it happen? Why? What difference does it make? As guilty lost sinners, there was nothing we could do to save ourselves. Freedom was beyond our grasp. Being spiritually dead we were not even interested in change, but his Spirit communicated with our spirits showing us our lost condition and offering the help we needed. The price had already been paid in full, so salvation was being offered to us as a gift. We never could have paid for it ourselves. The only condition was that we trust Jesus completely. This left absolutely no room for boasting on our part. We all had the same need and were saved by the same Person. God loved us though we could see no reason why. He is love and he loved us so much that he gave himself. Now "we are God's workmanship (made by him), created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (v. 10). These works do not achieve our salvation. They are a result of our salvation and naturally follow our being "created in Christ Jesus." These changes in lifestyle and activities are not an afterthought. They were part of God's plan from the beginning.

**Reconciled in Christ (vv. 11-22).** "But now in Christ Jesus you (Gentiles) who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ" (v. 13).

"Middle wall of partition" in the King James Version, or "dividing wall of hostility" in the New International Version, represents the barrier keeping Jews and Gentiles apart (v. 14). A.T. Robertson suggested using the figure of the cross to explain this. Think of the upright beam of the cross with Jews on one side and Gentiles on the other, and with Jews and Gentiles beneath the transverse beam. Then think of God as being above the transverse beam. This makes a double barrier. Jews and Gentiles are separated from each other and both are separated from God. By his death on the cross Jesus broke down those barriers that separate so that Jew and Gentile may be united and the whole human race may be reconciled to God. "For through him (Christ) we both have access to the Father by one Spirit" (v. 18). Regardless of race or nationality all who are in Christ are fellow citizens of his kingdom and members of his family. We are parts of his building, his temple, the dwelling place of his Spirit. We are one in him.

Kolb is a retired missionary living in Clinton.

## Life and Work Relationships



By Ruth Allen  
Genesis 2

God as Creator intended for all people to enter into a twofold relationship: 1. A vertical relationship between man and God. 2. A horizontal relationship which extends from man to his fellowman and to the natural world. An effective relationship, both vertical and horizontal, could virtually eradicate every problem confronting humanity. From the beginning, God specified the most workable solution for eliminating hindrances to harmonious relationships — putting God first and others second. Each Christian should seek to master this formula for excellent relationships as set forth by God.

**Relationship of God to man and man to God (vv. 7-9).** God placed man in the perfect setting of a well-watered garden. God told Adam to work and to tend the garden. God said, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it, you shall surely die." L.D. Johnson states in his book, *Moments of Reflection*, "Love cannot exist under compulsion. Faith is not faith unless unfaith is a genuine option. Relationship is rich and mutually fulfilling in direct proportion to its mutual voluntariness. Therefore, God... doesn't come on so strong as to overwhelm us." God gave mankind the freedom to say either yes or no to his Creator. God initiates the relationship which mankind either accepts or rejects.

When one establishes the right relationship with God, there is assurance of salvation which guarantees eternal life. The Christian has been granted the freedom to live in the security of God's protection. God also provided Christians with the joyful confidence of abundant physical and spiritual sustenance. When a Christian has a right relationship with God, he has a right relationship with his fellowman and with the natural world.

Oct. 9 is World Hunger Sunday among Southern Baptists. A recent ABC "World News Tonight" program emphasized the need for people to alleviate world hunger in a more tangible manner. A long line of children gathered outside a religious-sponsored feeding station on the island of Haiti where economic sanctions had severely restricted the food supply. Only the weak and malnourished would get inside to eat. Patiently, the other children, hoping to eat, stood outside in line. Upon hearing the blessing pronounced inside, those on the outside knew for certainty no food would be available for them. Instead of leaving, they crowded closer to watch the selected ones eat their rice and beans. Scenes of similar heartbreak occur all over the world because many have opted for a wrong relationship with God, which consequently affects others.

**Relationships with our families (vv. 18, 21-24).** A portion of the wedding ceremony in J.H. Hobbs' *Pastor's Manual* reads, "Marriage is God's institution for the welfare of the human race. In the quiet bowers of Eden before the forbidden tree had yielded its fateful fruit or the tempter had touched the world, God saw that it was not good for man to be alone. He made for man a suitable help, and established the rite of marriage, while heavenly hosts witnessed this heavenly scene. Originated in divine wisdom, designed to promote human happiness and holiness, this rite is the foundation of the social order, and must remain so until the end of time. So it is ordained that a man shall leave his father and mother, and cleave only unto his wife and the two shall be one flesh, united in hopes, aims, and sentiments both now and in the future."

This beautiful statement from the marriage covenant establishes the family relationships which God intended. God saw that it was not good for man to be alone. The Hebrew word states that God provided "an answering to." Man and wife answer to each other's needs in every possible way. God blesses those who are responsible in carrying out the God-ordained relationships. This means maintaining a right relationship with God, and then right family relationships will naturally ensue. Relationships are important! How we relate to God, family, our fellowman, and the natural world determines the degree of happiness and compatibility one can attain.

Allen lives in Jackson.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW



## The Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 27,  
Clinton, MS 39060-0027  
(601) 922-2242

ACCREDITED



COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION OF  
SERVICES FOR FAMILIES AND  
CHILDREN, INC.

## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

**AUG. 1, 1994-  
AUG. 31, 1994**

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Mrs. Mary Lou Lott  
Mark Bosarge  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald B. Bosarge  
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### MEMORIALS

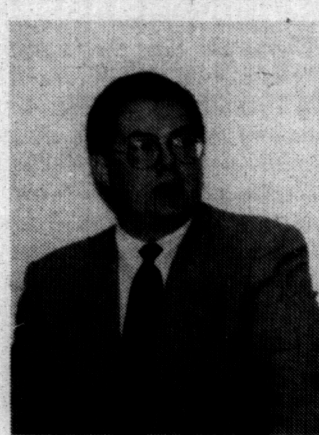
Daughter of Mrs. Champion  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob McCord  
Mother of Bill Phillips  
Mr. & Mrs. Barney R. Cook  
Mother of Mrs. Carl Cloer  
Mr. & Mrs. Barney R. Cook  
Mother of Mrs. Harvey Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. Barney R. Cook  
Mother of Mrs. Richard Grantham  
Mr. & Mrs. Barney R. Cook  
Sister of Billy Walker (Jackie)  
Mr. & Mrs. Glen King  
Sister of Leitha Ferguson  
Maude Barney SS, Galilee BC,  
Gloster  
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Mrs. Hazel Jones  
Milton Adams  
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The Ruth Wallace Family  
Dunk & Betty Wallace  
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T.E.L. SS, Springfield BC, Morton  
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Mr. & Mrs. James A. Kidd  
Mrs. Jean Crosby  
Sr. Adult SS, Lake Como,  
Bay Springs  
Frank Daef  
Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Everett  
Dr. J. T. Dairs  
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Ms. Gwen Box  
Ms. Dovey Brown  
Ms. Helen Lewis  
Ms. Anna Earls  
Ms. Vanna Pharr  
Ms. Patricia Gordon  
Ms. JoAnn Criswell  
Ms. Dora McGhee  
Ms. Gloria Thomas  
Jeff Anderson  
Mary Clemons  
Linda McCrory  
Linda Patrick  
David Rose  
Janet Smith  
Barbara Tanner  
Mary Willis  
Mrs. John Hammett  
South Central Bell  
Manager/Assistant Manager  
Jeff Anderson  
Mr. & Mrs. E. J. Benefiel

## Tupelo site of first "Friends of the Village"

On Monday evening, September 12, The Baptist Children's Village held its first regional "Friends of the Village" meeting at the Lee County Associational Office in Tupelo. Approximately sixty individuals from a six-county area gathered there for a delicious steak dinner prepared by Rev.



BCV Alumnus, Sean Milner addresses pastors and lay-people at "Friends of The Village" Conference in Tupelo.

William Smith, Director of Missions, and J. C. Prather. Everyone enjoyed a short dramatization by some Village youth. Attorney, Sean Milner shared his testimony about life at The Village. Sean was a resident here for 18 years and is now an attorney in Jackson and an active alumnus

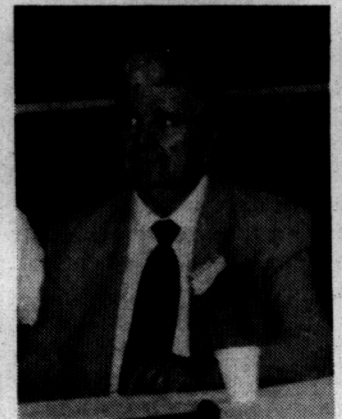


Baptist Children's Village guests enjoy an informational program and a steak dinner provided by Lee Baptist Association staff.

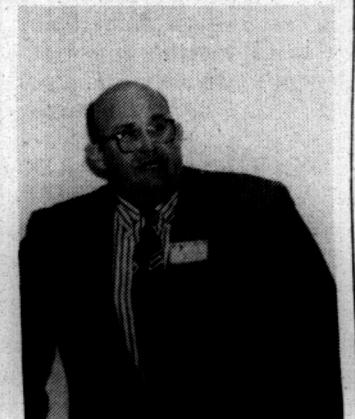
of the BCV.

Following the dramatization and testimony, BCV Executive Director Ronny Robinson led the group in a "what if" session as they were challenged to dream about ministry to children in the northeast area of our state. The input received will be helpful in developing plans for ministry outreach in the Tupelo and northeast Mississippi area.

Other regional meetings are to be scheduled across the state. If you are interested in attending please contact the BCV office at 922-2242.



Long-time friend of The Village, Rev. Guy Reedy was one honored guest at this first "Friends of The Village" area conference.



Executive Director, Ronny Robinson challenges northeast Mississippians in the area of ministry outreach.

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Mary Clemons  
Ms. Addie Commander  
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn E. Crowe  
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Crowe  
Ms. Doty Davis  
Mr. & Mrs. Lamar C. Dorris  
Mr. Joel Duncan  
Mr. & Mrs. E. J. Ganier Jr.  
Ms. Elizabeth Gressette  
Mr. & Mrs. Dickson L. Hall  
Mrs. Donna Hardin  
Mrs. Adrene B. Hollingsworth  
Mr. Charles W. Holmes  
Mr. & Mrs. Conrad D. Martin  
Linda McCrory  
Mr. John H. McMullan Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald F. Moncrief  
Linda Patrick  
Mr. & Mrs. Ross Robinson  
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Ms. Barbara Evans Shackelford  
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Mr. & Mrs. Michael Stevens  
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Mrs. Elizabeth Walcott  
Mr. Roger F. Wankel  
Ms. Koleta H. Washburn  
Mr. & Mrs. Don Wenger  
Ms. Elizabeth Wicks  
Mrs. Darhula S. Vickers  
Mr. Thomas Bruton  
Mrs. W. E. Campbell  
Mrs. Evelyn C. Cox  
Ms. Larraine W. Flanagan  
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Mr. & Mrs. William C. Miller  
Mr. Bill Duty  
Mrs. John D. Thomas  
Bob Dye  
Mrs. Alma Louise Smith  
E. L. Edwards  
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Champion  
Mrs. Nettie Edwards  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Russum  
Mr. & Mrs. George H. Thornton  
Cayce Ellard  
Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Hilton

Mr. Robert Errington  
Heuck's Retreat BC, Brookhaven  
Mrs. Edward Evans  
Mr. Joyce Cox  
Dr. William Everett  
Mrs. Mildred M. Graves  
Rev. T. L. Everett  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles J. Bowman  
Mr. & Mrs. W. Gaylon Tullos  
Mrs. Eloise Tullos  
Lola Cupit Fala  
Stanton Baptist Church, Natchez  
Mrs. Lottie H. Fairchild  
Mr. Roy Fairchild  
Willie Doll Falkenhelner  
The Friendship Club  
Fidelis SS, FBC, Vicksburg  
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Mr. & Mrs. Robert Whitehead  
Mrs. Willie Fenn  
Mrs. Gail Kirkland  
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Young Adult Women, Vaiden BC  
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Mrs. Della Flynt  
Young Couples SS, Newhebron BC  
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Helen S. Foreman  
Mr. & Mrs. James A. Kidd  
Mrs. Susan Adcock Francingues  
Mr. & Mrs. A. W. Lang Jr.  
Mr. Carroll Garrison  
Mr. & Mrs. Leon Clark  
"Mama" Gillis  
Mrs. Imogene L. Penn  
Mrs. Shirley Gray  
Dr. & Mrs. Carl Bozeman  
Mrs. Mary Lee Greer  
Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Russell Jr.  
Rolly "Peck" Greer  
Mr. & Mrs. Ron K. Phillips  
William Gregory  
Graeber Brothers Inc.  
John Guess  
Larry, Linda, & Lucky Tucker  
Mrs. Wilma Gunter  
Fidelis SS, FBC, Crystal Springs  
Kim Gwlaada  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Owen  
Mr. Estus Haddox  
Mr. & Mrs. James M. Dye  
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Schmidt  
& Family  
Mrs. Annie Halford

Mr. & Mrs. David Doss  
Lou Ella Hamatt  
Mr. Gordie Whittington  
Rev. J. E. Hammack  
Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Carpenter  
Mr. A. M. Hammond  
Mr. & Mrs. Carroll Bruister Jr.  
Mr. Abner Mr. Hammond Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey Lee Boone  
Mr. James W. Hammond Sr.  
Mrs. Mildred R. Phelps  
Frank H. Hammond  
Mr. James W. Hammond Sr.  
Evelyn Hardin  
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd E. Coil  
Effie Hardison  
Ms. Patricia Walston  
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Norma Harrison  
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Davenport  
Mr. Sime Hawkins  
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Bridges  
Mrs. Virginia Hawkins  
Mr. & Mrs. James S. Pilgrim  
Dustin Lee Heath  
Rebecca SS, DeKalb Baptist Church  
Loyd Hefflin Jr.  
Mrs. Waurene Hefflin & Rhianon  
Mr. A. L. Hemphill  
Reedy Acres Staff and Children  
Mrs. Pearl Henderson  
Mr. & Mrs. O. Theron Poole  
Jerry Herrington  
Mr. Carlton H. Smith and Family  
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Mr. & Mrs. Gerald E. Braddock  
James Hodges  
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Mr. & Mrs. A. C. Pilgreen  
Mr. R. W. Hollingsworth  
Mrs. Earlene Hollis  
Mr. & Mrs. E. L. Betros  
Mr. & Mrs. John Cantrell  
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Mr. & Mrs. Joe Vaughan  
Mrs. Earlene Hollis  
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Mr. & Mrs. Ben F. Hand III  
Dr. & Mrs. F. T. McPherson  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald E. Braddock  
Mrs. Charles Hooker  
J. L. Horne  
Mrs. Ruby C. Windham  
Mr. Martin Hudson  
Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey Lee Boone  
Mr. Bill Hudspeth  
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Mr. & Mrs. Tom Rice  
William Hull  
Mrs. Artie Virginia Martin  
Francis M. Humes  
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Mrs. Louise Jackson  
The Lamar Kimbrough Family  
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Gilbert Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Dew  
Mack Johnson  
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Mr. & Mrs. Alton L. Fields  
Vivian Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. John Robert Griffin  
Beth Jones  
Natasha, Bud, Talitha, Bern Bennett  
Ms. Eloise Savage  
Dr. Ben Jones  
Miss Earlene Woods  
Mrs. Winnie H. Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. R. B. Jones  
Pauline H. Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. R. B. Jones  
Mr. Thomas G. Keith  
Mr. & Mrs. E. L. Bennett Jr.  
Paul Holland SS, Hollandale BC  
(to be continued)



# capsules

**TAYLOR NAMED TO LEAD SBC SUNDAY SCHOOL WORK:** NASHVILLE (BP) — Bill Taylor, executive pastor of North Phoenix Church in Phoenix, Ariz., is the choice of the administration of the Baptist Sunday School Board to become director of the Bible teaching-reaching division, Gene Mims told trustees Sept. 27 during their semi-annual meeting. Taylor, 55, who has held his present position since January, was minister of education and administration at Prestonwood Church in Dallas for 11 years, 1982-93. Earlier, he served as minister of education and administration at University Church, Coral Gables, Fla.; Roswell Street Church, Marietta, Ga.; and Memorial Church, Metairie, La. Mims, vice president of the church growth group, said, "We are looking to him to become part of a dynamic team... [and] to communicate our message that church growth begins with Bible study."

**CLC ETHICIST ATTACKS REPORT URGING HUMAN EMBRYO RESEARCH:** WASHINGTON (BP) — A Southern Baptist ethicist assailed a National Institutes of Health panel's recommendation supporting federal funding of experimentation on early human embryos. "Embryos are bearers of the image of God," said Ben Mitchell, consultant on biomedical and life issues for the Christian Life Commission. "Embryos are not static entities; they are developing human beings in a dynamic process of growth — unless killed. It is clearly wrong to create a human person with the express purpose of killing her." The CLC and other pro-life organizations reacted in horror at the Sept. 27 announcement of the panel's report endorsing such research because the group determined embryos do not have "the same moral status as infants and children." At the same time, the panel said the embryo "warrants serious moral consideration as a developing form of human life" and has "special character." The panel recommended research be limited to the first 14 days of the embryo's life but allowed for some exceptions.

**SENIOR ADULT CONVENTION TO STAY IN NASHVILLE, MOVED TO 1997:** NASHVILLE (BP) — Delay in construction of a Nashville arena has pushed the dates of a Senior Adult Convention back a year, said Jay Johnston, event coordinator in the Baptist Sunday School Board's Discipleship and Family Adult Department. The new convention dates are April 28-30, 1997, Johnston said. Sunday School Board officials sponsoring the event learned of the delayed construction plans in June. Since then, Johnston said he has been searching for a new site for the convention, originally scheduled for May 1996. As logistics became increasingly difficult to work out, Johnston said he learned senior adults were looking forward to coming to Nashville. "Our decision to keep it here and move it back a year was really based on the response of our people," Johnston said. He expects about 20,000 senior adults to attend the event. "This will be the first time a Southern Baptist meeting of this size has been held in Nashville. We're looking at this as sort of a homecoming...." Johnston said.

**PASTOR PROTESTS STATE PAPER'S REJECTION OF ITEM ABOUT CBF SPEAKER:** ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (ABP) — Michael Champouillon, pastor of Heights Church in Albuquerque, N.M., says his church's rights were violated when the *Baptist New Mexican* refused to print an item announcing a speech by Keith Parks. Parks, former president of the Foreign Mission Board, now runs the missions program for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Champouillon said the Baptist state paper treated Parks as "an enemy of the gospel" by refusing to announce he would be a guest speaker at the church Oct. 1. Claude Cone, executive director of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico, said the paper does not promote meetings of the Fellowship because its programs compete with the SBC and stir controversy. John Loudat, the *Baptist New Mexican's* editor, said this is the first time the issue has arisen since his election as editor last November. "Heights Church has continued to support the Cooperative Program and deserves the same rights as any other Southern Baptist church to announce its meetings," said Champouillon.

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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NGV AQWT NKIJV UQ UJKPG DGHQTG OGP, VJCV  
VJGA OCA UGG AQWT IQQF YQTMU, CPF  
INQTKHA AQWT HCVJGT YJKEJ KU KP JGCXGP.

OCVVJGY HKXG: UKZVGGP

This week's clue: G equals E.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Proverbs Sixteen: Two.

# Participants build friendship at Fall Festival of Marriage

*The Baptist Record* was invited to be the guest of the Baptist Sunday School Board for the Fall Festival of Marriage held at the New Orleans Seminary Sept. 16-18. Theme for this year's festival was "Husbands and Wives: The Best of Friends." The following is the second in a series of observations of the weekend by Record staffer Shannon Simpson. For more information on locations, dates, and lodging, call the Baptist Sunday School Board at (615) 251-2277; or to register, call (615) 251-2294.

**Friday evening.** During the first general session for all couples, in the Leavell Chapel on the New Orleans Seminary campus, keynote speakers Bob and Yvonne Turnbull of Mission Viejo, Calif., tell us to "affirm your mate, in accordance with Proverbs 3:27." On that note, we receive a homework assignment: Each day for a week, we must deliver at least one form of praise to our spouse.

The session concludes, and we head to "A Celebration of Couples." We break into groups according to last name. Ellis and I end up in the same group with Kathy and Eric Thibodeaux of Richland. They came with about six other couples from First Church, Richland, as they have done for several years, though they missed last year.

Kathy says, "We love it, especially being with other couples without kids around. We really get to know them."

Our group leaders (their name tags have "Faculty" ribbons attached) are James and Gail Walters of Natchez. He pastors the Morgantown congregation; she works in real estate. We meet other couples in the group and have some laughs with games that help us get to know each other. Most remind me of grown-up "Fruit Basket Turnover."

That session ends around 10. We remember we haven't eaten.



In a city like New Orleans, not eating could be something like sin.

We go in search of roast beef Po'boys, with dripping gravy and real French bread. When we find them, we fall in like addicts deprived. Back to the hotel for sleep.

**Day 2. Saturday morning...** early. "Happy sixth anniversary," reads a card I leave by the bathroom mirror for my husband. In the spirit of the weekend, I sign it, "From your best friend."

We head for coffee, then the seminary campus.

The first workshop we decide on is "Celebrating Sex in Your Marriage." This was the theme for the entire Fall Festival series last year.

Everyone who walks in the room looks a little sheepish, including us. Despite the intimate topic, leaders handle it with ease. We learn it is God's intention for couples to "cleave" to each other, not only in the sexual sense, but for emotional fulfillment. In the proper context, sex can be strengthening and molding for the individual as well as the couple, they say.

Some exercises with smaller groups help couples learn how to communicate about sex. Ellis and I leave the workshop feeling we are better off than we thought we were. We had already poured that foundation early in our marriage.

On to the next workshop, "Getting on top of Stress," led by

Ebbie and Donna Smith. Former missionaries to Indonesia, they now live in Fort Worth, where he is professor of Christian ethics at Southwestern Seminary.

Among their "qualifications" to teach the workshop, they cite the loss of their second son to an auto accident overseas, and their presence in Indonesia during the communist coup in 1965. Married 40 years, it sounds as if they've had more than their share of stress.

Ellis and I both wanted to attend this workshop. Our life together seems to have been filled with stress from the beginning. It only gets easier as we learn to deal with it better, not because the stress comes less often or in smaller doses. I suppose it's the same for everyone. Again, we learn we're doing better than we thought.

The Smiths drive home the point that stress, anxiety, and tension will never leave us. The only way to alleviate them are to improve the way we react to them. It's up to us. The Smiths cite Jesus' retreat from the throngs on the shore of Galilee. Even though he was God, he had to get away.

"Having stress doesn't mean you're a bad Christian," say the Smiths. "It doesn't mean you don't have any faith. It just means you are human."

One tip they gave: Respond to all problems as if they were mere vexations, not tragedies.

Among stressors in marriage, they cite role confusion, no extended family, and fast-paced lifestyles. We can attest to that!

The best formula they found for breaking the cycle of stressors: the Serenity Prayer. "Lord, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

**Saturday afternoon.** After the workshop, we have the afternoon free. We drive around New Orleans, but purposely avoid planning anything — what a luxury!

(to be continued)



David and Jacque Trullitt led a workshop on "Freedom of Forgiveness" during the Fall Festival of Marriage conference at New Orleans Seminary, Sept. 16-18. (BP photo by Terri Lackey)

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SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL 401  
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE TN-37203  
NASHVILLE

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

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